- **World/A10**
US missile strike in Fallujah also kills 5 children, 2 women

- **Metro/A22**
AFP raises red alert in NCR; security measures in place

- **Business/B1**
GMA takes credit for surge in local stocks

- **News/A9**
No honeymoon period for Gloria, survey shows

- **Entertainment/A33**
Cesar Montano to star in another Hollywood movie

25 of 236 solons willing to abolish pork barrel

By Cynthia D. Balana

TWENTY-FIVE congressmen from various political parties have declared their support for the total abolition of the 2005 pork barrel allocation of all the 236 members of the House of Representatives as a means of addressing the fiscal crisis.

25 OF 236/A19

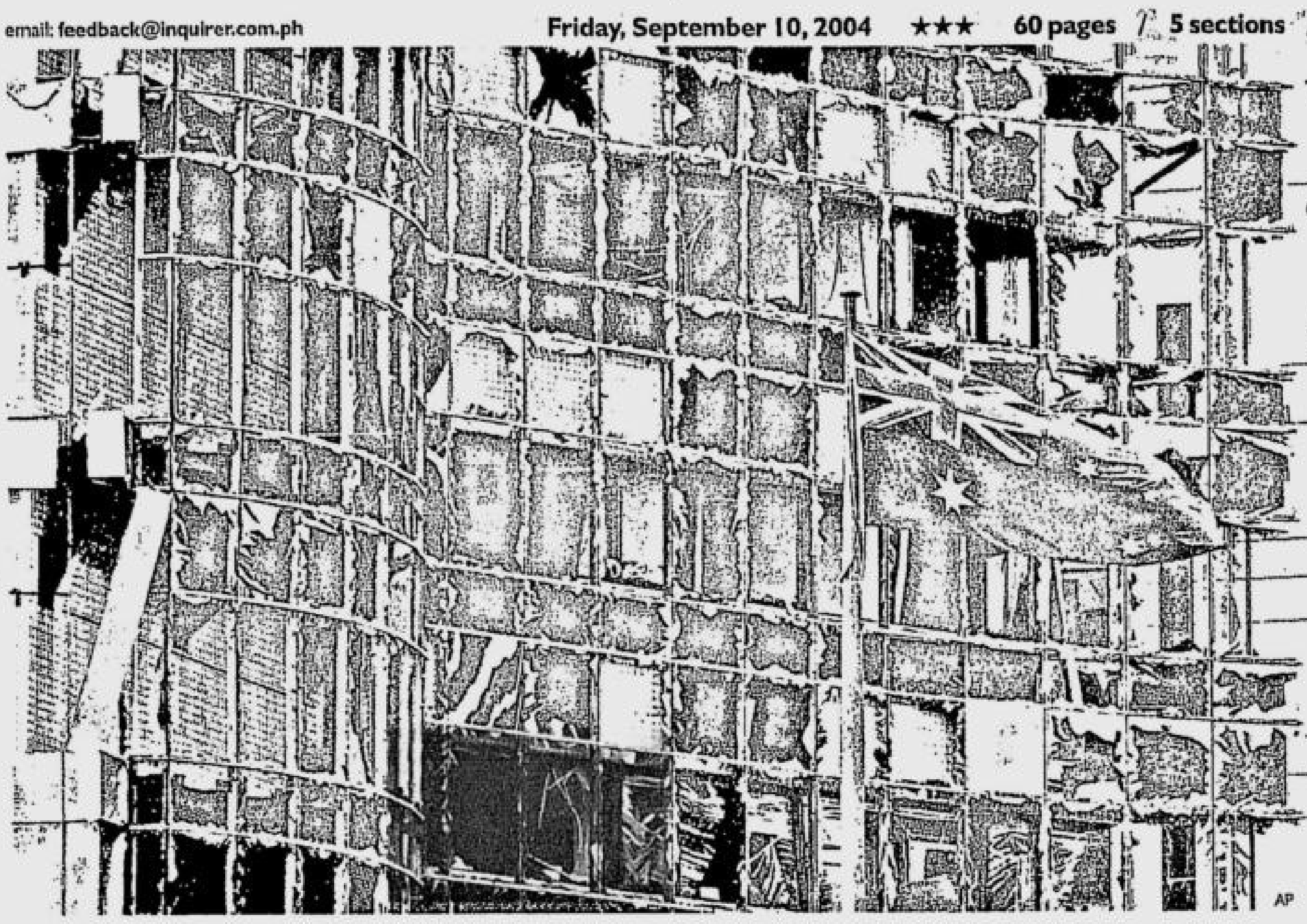
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Philippines rooting for Bush but 30 countries go for Kerry

WASHINGTON—Filipinos are rooting for US President George W. Bush in the November election, but a majority of people in 30 of 35 countries covered by a survey want Democratic Party standard-bearer John Kerry in the White House, according to results released Wednesday showing Bush rebuffed by nearly all of America's traditional allies.

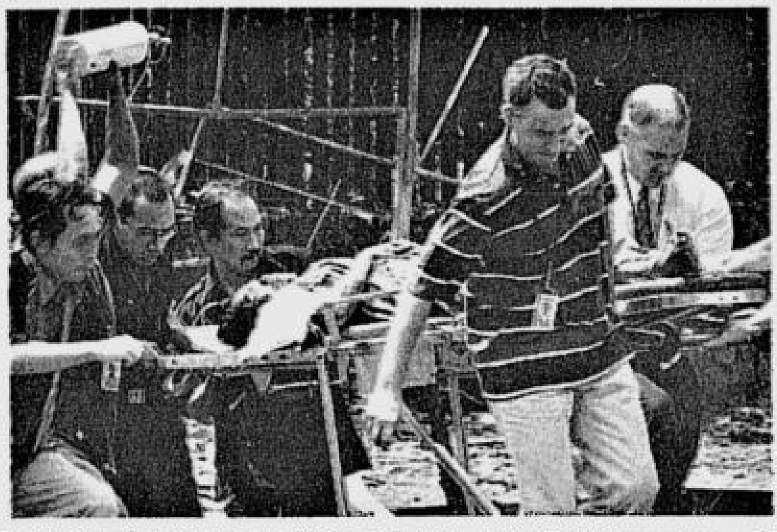
PHILIPPINES/ A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, September 10, 2004 ★★★ 60 pages 5 sections vol. 19 no. 275 P18 website: www.inq7.net

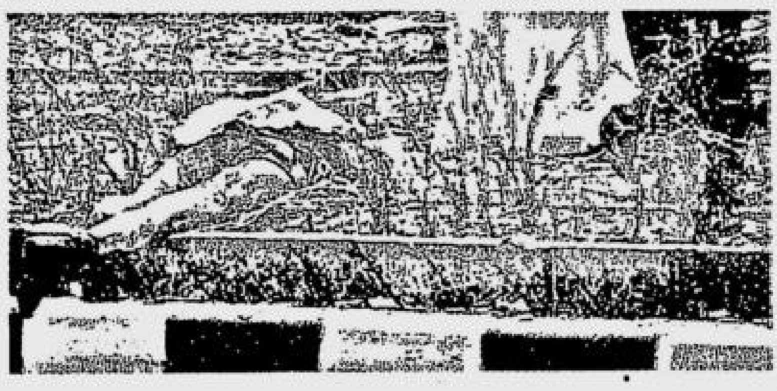


AP

THE AUSTRALIAN flag waves near a building badly damaged by the deadly bomb attack in Jakarta (left). Grim-faced staff members of the Australian Embassy evacuate an injured man (right top). The morning explosion left bloody corpses (right below) and severed human remains strewn across the busy commercial street outside the embassy in the Kuningan business and residential district.



REUTERS



AP

Jakarta car bomb kills 8

Cops blame Jemaah Islamiyah for blast that wounds 161

AN Indonesian man escorts a wounded foreigner following the massive blast. AP

JAKARTA—At least eight people were killed and more than 160 injured when a car bomb exploded outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta yesterday, just weeks before Australia, a key US ally in Iraq, votes in general elections.

The force of the blast, which Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer described as a terrorist attack on his country, punched windows out of nearby tower blocks and badly mangled the security perimeter around the embassy.

Jakarta military commander Maj. Gen. Agustadi said he believed the attack was a suicide operation. "From data on the ground it looks like it was a suicide bombing and it was carried out with a car," he said.

The blast occurred two days before the third anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States which were blamed on the al-Qaida terror network.

Police blamed the Jakarta blast on the Jemaah Islamiyah, the same group of al-Qaida-linked militants implicated in the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings and an attack last year on the nearby Marriott hotel. *(See box on Page A4.)*

The explosion four meters from the embassy's gates occurred at 10:15 a.m. (0315 GMT) and shook buildings across a large part of the central commercial district of the city of 12 million people. A thick plume of white smoke rose above the embassy.

Officials at hospitals in Jakarta confirmed eight people were killed and at least 161 injured. A list issued by a hospital showed up to five foreigners among the injured.

Dazed survivors desperately tried to locate colleagues and missing family members in the minutes after the blast. Survivors and passers-by witnessed grisly scenes as security officers covered the mangled bodies of victims with newspapers.

A severed human leg lay on the intersection between the two lanes of the street, its trousers torn off by the force of the explosion. Elsewhere, officers carefully picked up other

JAKARTA/ A4

THE ASSASSINS OF ABRA

Are private armies untouchable?

By Artha Kira Paredes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

(Last of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

BANGUED, Abra—It has ensnared not only local policemen but churchmen and judges as well. Ordinary citizens, especially potential witnesses, seem helpless against it.

Such is the extent of the virtual web of fear cast by private armies in Abra that no one dares testify against them, Gov. Vicente Valera said.

He said local officials maintaining these private armed groups (PAGs) had set up a "very wide network" reaching beyond the province.

"They have become so emboldened because they are being protected by some high ranking police officers. This is also the reason these groups have thrived in Abra because police officials and personnel are, in a way, threatened by local officials (who maintain PAGs)," Valera told the INQUIRER.

Even some people in power in Abra are cowed, fearing retaliation, the governor said.

"People would not believe stories that even some incumbent officials would be terrorized by these groups," he said.

"For your information, I am the subject of several hit men already. I have been getting this information from as far as Isabela and Ilocos Norte."

"If no one will talk, who will?" Valera said.

"If judges, prosecutors and the clergy are afraid to talk about these groups, how much more an ordinary person who has wit-

ARE ABRA/ A21

Gov't borrows $1B to bail out Napocor

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE government yesterday raised $1 billion (P56 billion) from an offering of sovereign bonds to complete the $1.5-billion financing requirement for the year of the debt-saddled National Power Corp.

The issue was lead-managed by Credit Suisse First Boston, Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan Chase, according to the Department of Finance.

Over the past nine months, the government has raised for Napocor $750 million in three separate bond offerings ($100 million last December, $400 million in April and $250 million in June).

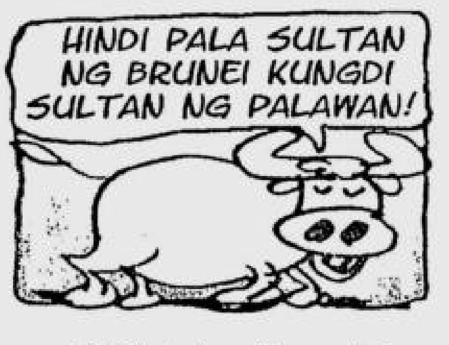
The extra $250 million that the national government raised from the four bond offerings will be used for its own financing requirements, said Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee.

The government is borrowing money for Napocor, which is saddled with some P1.3 trillion in debts, because creditors would charge the state-owned corporation more if it raised funds on its own.

Losses of Napocor, the government's single biggest liability, are expected to reach P115 billion by the end of the year. The government intends to assume P500 billion of the power firm's debts before privatizing it.

The Energy Regulatory Commission has approved a power rate hike for Napocor to partly stem its losses caused by President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to cut by 85 centavos per kilo-

GOV'T/ A21



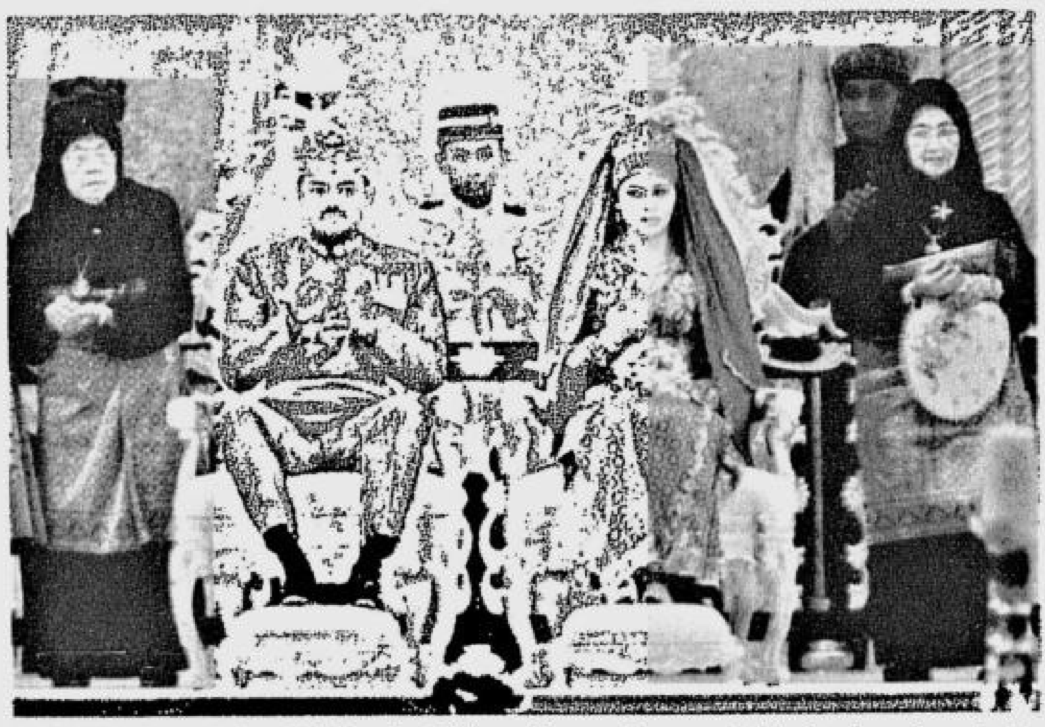
HINDI PALA SULTAN NG BRUNEI KUNGDI SULTAN NG PALAWAN!

GMA takes Lear jet but it was not Bolkiah's

By Juliet L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo did take a Lear jet yesterday to the royal wedding in Brunei but, contrary to a Malacañang official's earlier announcement, it wasn't one sent over by Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

GMA/ A19



BRUNEI'S Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah and his stunning young bride, Sarah, recite ancient Muslim wedding prayers in the opulent throne chamber of the Istana Nurul Iman. REUTERS

Rains soak royal couple in 'wedding of the year'

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei—A tropical downpour soaked the new royal couple, frustrating the efforts of footmen walking alongside their carriage—an open, gold-colored Rolls-Royce stretch limousine—with umbrellas.

Still, yesterday's 8-km parade across the capital continued as a marching band played. The carriage was followed by 103 limousines and vehicles carrying family members.

Soldiers brandishing submachine guns lined the streets, which had been closed to traffic. Thousands of people, many of whom had been waiting since daybreak, scurried for cover after catching a glimpse of the motorcade.

"I'm excited to come out and see this, because he will be my new king," said retiree Abdul Malik Ali. "He seems smart and sophisticated, even though I've never heard of him, or seen him before."

Earlier, the future monarch of this oil-rich sultanate married a 17-year-old half-Swiss commoner in what has been tagged as Asia's wedding of the year, attended by royalty and dignitaries from around the world.

Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah Bolkiah, 30, son of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah—the absolute

RAINS/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2004

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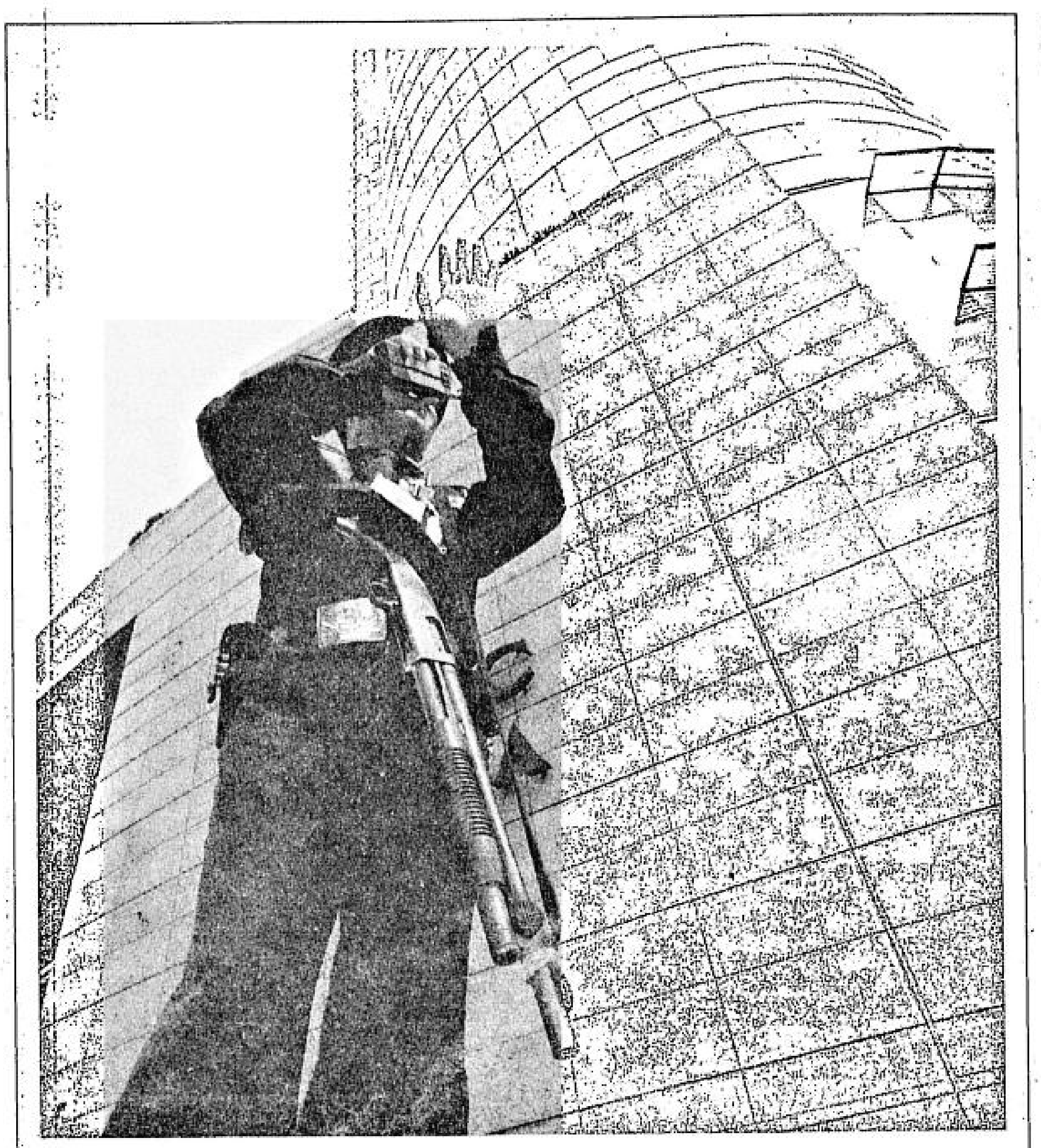
WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/10/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains



GUARDING AUSSIE EMBASSY

A private security guard armed only with a shotgun keeps watch around the perimeter of the RCBC Plaza in Makati where the Australian Embassy is located. Security around the embassy was tightened in the wake of yesterday's deadly car bomb attack on the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, killing seven people. AFP

Taiwan seeks RP support for new UN bid

By TJ Burgonio

TAIWAN yesterday sought support from the Philippines in its renewed bid to join the United Nations, stressing that its continued exclusion from the world body was a "senseless policy of political apartheid."

Wu Hsin-hsing, the head of Taiwan's de facto embassy in Manila, urged the Philippines to adopt a "one Taiwan policy" alongside its one-China policy with China as he presented the case for Taiwan's admission to the world body in a press conference yesterday.

"Otherwise, I don't know how Philippine-Taiwan relations could proceed smoothly, practically," said Wu, the chief of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Teco) in Manila.

On her state visit to Beijing last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo reaffirmed the Philippines' adherence to the one-China policy, recognizing Beijing's dictum that Taiwan was a renegade province of China and that the government in Beijing was the sole legitimate government of China.

$1-B pledge

The President ended her three-day state visit with a reported pledge of nearly $1 billion in investments and soft loans from Chinese officials.

Wu, who said Teco was stepping up efforts to seek Philippine support for its renewed drive to join the UN this month, said Taiwan respects the Philippines' one-China policy but urged the country to build on its relations with Taipei independent from China.

Taiwan and the Philippines enjoy extensive economic ties despite Beijing's one-China policy preventing any diplomatic relations with Taipei. It is among the Philippines' biggest trading partners and a top direct investor.

Wu said it would be in the best interest of the Philippines to develop a concurrent or parallel engagement policy with China and Taiwan.

"The Philippines needs all friends to help you develop your economy... China can help you. Good, welcome. We give you all our blessings because we also want to see your country's economic development to proceed smoothly with other countries' help," he said.

'Don't forget Taiwan'

"But please don't forget Taiwan. We can also help you," he said.

Wu said Taiwan's appeal has been conveyed to Teco's counterpart in Taipei, the Manila Economic and Cultural Office, but declined to discuss the response.

But officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs have hinted that Taiwan's appeal would likely be rebuffed, citing the country's adherence to the one-China policy.

The Philippines this year was elected as one of the 10 rotating non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Taiwan's supporters are seeking UN recognition for the self-governing island for the 12th year in a row, a move which sparked an immediate and strong protest from China.

Wu acknowledged Taiwan's bid may fail again because of China's opposition.

He said the Philippine government could help out by expressing support for Taiwan's bid during the UN General Committee and the General Assembly meetings in late September for "humanitarian reasons."

"We expect that your friendship, your ambassador in UN can vote for Taiwan's case. If not vote for [it], then to show your support or sympathy. We will appreciate that. We understand you have your own difficulties," he said.

"If the Philippine side can express that you understand why Taiwan wants to join [the]UN, and say it's a matter of universality, we will appreciate it," he added.

40 leaders

Taiwan is confident that at least 40 countries will support its bid for UN membership despite opposition from China, a Taiwanese diplomat said.

Wu said that while only 15 countries signed a petition last month urging the world body to include Taiwan on the agenda of its upcoming session, "40 or 50 will support or voice their idea or express their sympathy."

Taiwan has diplomatic ties with 27 countries, 15 of which signed the petition. Wu refused to name other countries which he said had assured Taipei of their support.

The UN General Assembly's General Committee said it will consider the request from Taiwan's supporters on Sept. 15.

"We understand it is not enough, that's the reason why in the Philippines we urge your government to support Taiwan's bid for the UN," Wu said.

Drilon defends new GMA appointments

By Christine O. Avendano and Carla P. Gomez,
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAKING the cudgels for Malacañang, Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday defended the appointments of nine Cabinet secretaries by President Macapagal-Arroyo which opposition senators want the Supreme Court to nullify for being "unconstitutional."

"There is nothing in the Constitution which prohibits the issuance of an acting appointment to Cabinet secretaries to enable them to discharge their functions immediately, Drilon said on Wednesday.

Early this week, opposition senators asked the Supreme Court to stop nine "acting secretaries" from performing their duties since their appointments have not yet been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

Until they get the nod of the CA, the Cabinet appointees are merely deemed nominated and cannot take their oath, much less perform their duties of their office, opposition senators led by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in their petition to the high court.

Drilon said he welcomed the move taken by the opposition as "this was the opportunity for the court to be able to rule on the issue."

But he said that constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas shares the same view... "(t)hat indeed the President could issue such acting appointments," Drilon said.

The nine Cabinet members were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Florencio Abad (education), Avelino Cruz (defense), Michael Defensor (environment), Joseph Durano (tourism), Raul Gonzalez (justice), Alberto Romulo (foreign), Rene Villa (agrarian reform) and Arthur Yap (agriculture).

But for newly appointed Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, the petition filed by nine opposition senators before the Supreme Court to stop the "acting secretaries" from performing their duties is "politically motivated."

"It is probably being done to embarrass the President. Clearly it is politically motivated," Gonzalez said.

"We cannot prevent anybody from filing a case. Let us hope that it will eventually be settled by the court," said Gonzalez, whose appointment was among those being questioned.

He pointed out that it has been a practice that the President appoints secretaries on an acting capacity pending approval by the Commission on Appointments.

"There have been so many precedents in the past. There is nothing wrong with such appointments," he said.

In their petition with the SC, the opposition senators claimed the Constitution clearly states that the appointments of heads of departments while Congress is in session can only be made after the consent of the Commission on Appointments is obtained.

The senators who filed the petition were members of the Senate minority bloc. These include Senators Aquilino Pimentel, Sergio Osmeña III, Edgardo Angara, Juan Ponce Enrile, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, Jinggoy Estrada, Panfilo Lacson, Alfredo Lim and Jamby Madrigal.

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RP-China Spratlys deal angers Vietnam

HANOI—Vietnam hit out Thursday at plans by China and the Philippines to map potential oil deposits around the Spratly Islands and reaffirmed its sovereignty over the disputed South China Sea archipelago.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Le Dung accused Beijing and Manila of deviating from a November 2002 agreement signed by China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to avoid any actions which may heighten tensions there.

"We are very concerned at the information from the signing in Beijing on Sept. 1, 2004 between China and the Philippines without any consultation with the other parties involved," he told reporters.

"Vietnam has asked China and the Philippines to provide information on this agreement."

China and the Philippines last week announced a three-year project by their state oil companies to gather data on petroleum resources around the Spratlys.

The archipelago, which has abundant fishing grounds, lies near key sea lanes and reputedly sits on vast oil reserves, but it has also become a regional flash point among its six claimants. *AFP*

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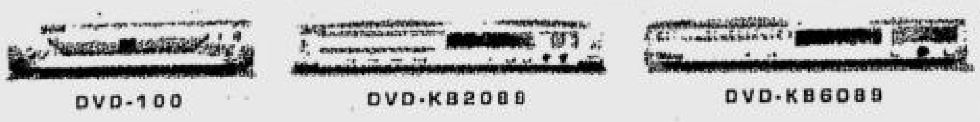

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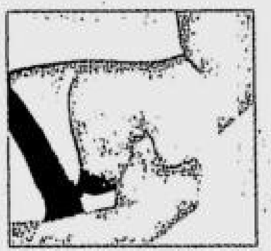
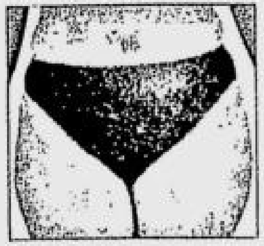
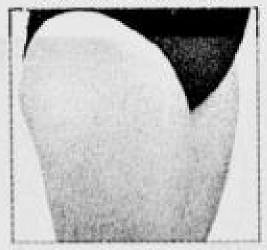


Firm up your flabby arms

Flatten your tummy bulge



Re-shape your cellulite-heavy hips



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Jakarta car bomb kills 8, injures 161

From page A1

unidentified human remains.

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who was in neighboring Brunei where she attended a royal wedding with other heads of state including Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo, cut short her stay and was returning to Jakarta, officials said.

In Manila, military and police troops were ordered to go on full alert. *(See Metro, Page A22.)*

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters that Ms Arroyo "condemned" the latest terrorist attack against the Philippines' Asean neighbor.

"This act of violence against innocent civilians has no justification," he said.

Bunye also urged Filipinos to take extra precautions on the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"With the development in Jakarta, we have to take precautionary measures to make sure no similar incident takes place here on the anniversary of 9/11," he said.

Pinoys safe

No Filipino was reported wounded or killed in the bomb attack, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said in a hastily called press briefing in Manila.

He said Ambassador to Indonesia Shulan Primavera was coordinating with Indonesian authorities to determine the nationalities of those killed or injured, and had instructed the embassy staff to monitor the incident.

A total of 2,649 Filipinos reside in Indonesia.

Many diplomats, including officers and a staff member of the Philippine Embassy, live in the vicinity of the blast site, which is located in a business district in Kuningan, Central Jakarta. The embassy is 10 minutes by car from the scene.

Romulo likewise denounced the attack, and said in a prepared statement: "This is a despicable act against humanity and freedom. I condemn the perpetrators of this terrorist act.

"The Philippine government and people are one with the Indonesian government and people in mourning the victims of this recent bombing and in their effort to combat terrorism."

Romulo also said the Philippines was saddened by the injuries and the deaths, as well as the damage wrought on the Australian Embassy.

"This incident will only further strengthen the Philippines' commitment and determination to fight all forms of terrorism," he added.

Deliberate strike

Both Australia and the United States last week raised new warnings urging their citizens to avoid Western hotels in Jakarta. The warnings reminded citizens to defer nonessential travel to the Southeast Asian archipelago.

Australian Foreign Minister Downer, who was to fly to Jakarta later yesterday, said the "very large" bomb attack was a deliberate strike on Australian interests.

Downer said it was still unclear whether the bombing was a suicide bombing like previous attacks on the Jakarta Marriott hotel and in Bali.

He said he would speak with the heads of the Australian Federal Police and spy agency ASIO when he travels to Jakarta.

The attack prompted the immediate evacuation of the Australian Embassy and caused a sharp drop of nearly 4 percent in the Jakarta stock market.

No one inside the heavily fortified embassy was hurt in the blast, said Lyndall Sachs, a spokesperson for the Australian foreign ministry in Canberra.

But Budi Harianto, 30, was slightly wounded in the leg as he queued at the embassy to get a visa. "It was like an earthquake, like thunder," he said.

Witnesses said a police truck and a taxi in front of the embassy had been blown apart, and the high steel fence surrounding the building was damaged. A guard's post in front of the embassy was also destroyed.

"I can't find my family," said Suharti, who had eight relatives working at the embassy.

"I am terrified. I don't know where they are," she said, clutching the arm of a reporter.

Key issues

Australia votes in general elections on Oct. 9, in which the conservative government's staunch support for the US-led invasion of Iraq, to which it contributed troops, and the US-led war on terror are key issues.

Speaking after the bomb attack, Australian Prime Minister John Howard said his country would not bow to terrorism.

"This is not a nation that is going to be intimidated by acts of terrorism. We are a strong, robust democracy," Howard told reporters in Melbourne.

In March, an attack on trains in Madrid just before the Spanish election was credited with causing the defeat of a conservative administration that had also allied itself with the United States over Iraq.

Andrew Tan, an analyst at Singapore's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, said: "I don't think [the attack] is just over [Australia's involvement in] Iraq.

"There is a perception that three countries—the United States, Britain and Australia—constitute the Anglo-Saxon core of Western Christian states that are waging war against Islam."

Megawati herself faces a challenge from her former Security Minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in Indonesia's Sept. 20 election, and tackling terrorists has been among the key issues in her campaign.

Speaking at the attack site, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda echoed international condemnation of the incident.

"This shows that terrorism is our enemy. This should make our people aware that we have a problem of this nature," he told reporters. *Reports from Inquirer wires; Gil Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio in Manila*

INDONESIAN policemen direct an ambulance to one of the fatalities of the bomb blast in front of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta on Thursday. REUTERS

Malaysian professor is prime suspect

JAKARTA—An elusive Malaysian bomb expert involved with al-Qaida-linked Islamic militants is emerging as the prime suspect in yesterday's bomb attack on the Australian Embassy.

Azahari Husin, a former professor and explosives expert believed to have been involved in earlier Jemaah Islamiyah bomb attacks in Bali and on Jakarta's Marriott hotel, could have been behind the embassy blast, Indonesian police said.

"Our prime target is to arrest him (Azahari)," national police chief Gen. Da'i Bachtiar told reporters. He said the car bomb was similar to earlier devices said to be the Malaysian's work.

Azahari and compatriot Noordin Mohammad Top are suspected of making the bombs used in the October 2002 bombings in Bali in which 202 people died, and in the August 2003 attack on the Marriott in which 12 perished.

"Dr. Azahari has the specific capability. Why do we continue to look at this group? Because it (Thursday's bombing) has a very close resemblance to the Bali and Marriott bombings," Bachtiar said.

Bachtiar also said Azahari and Noordin, who escaped a police dragnet last year in the city of Bandung on Java island, were constantly on the move but were "definitely still in Indonesia." *AFP*

Azahari: Also one of the suspects in the JW Marriott hotel bombing in Jakarta. AFP

Corrections

IN THE Sept. 7 issue, the "Breaktime" column of Conrado R. Banal III on Page B2 of the Business section came up with the wrong figure when he subtracted P350 million from the Arroyo administration's budget deficit target of P200 billion this year. The correct difference is P199.65 billion—not P196.5 billion.

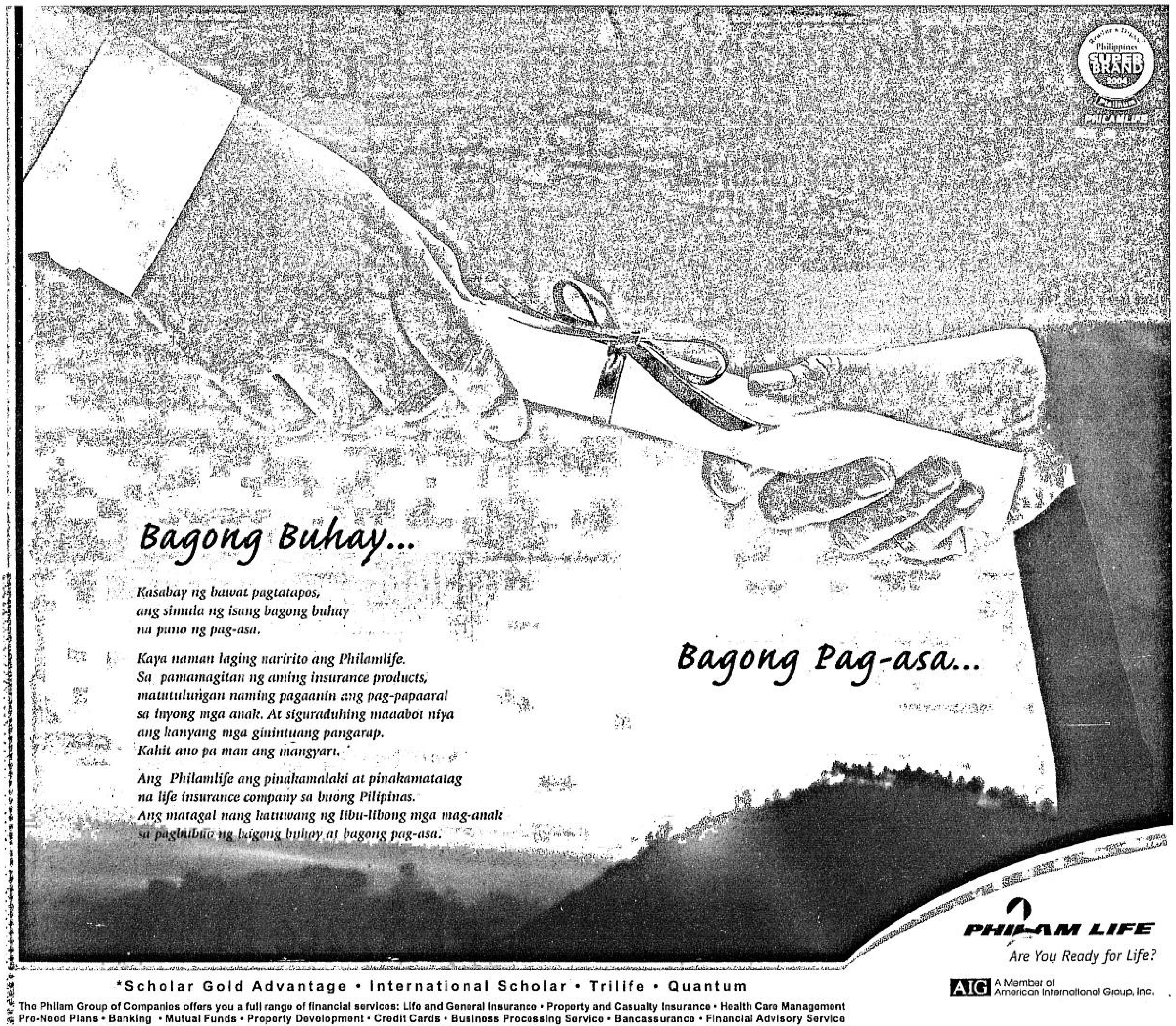
* * *

IN THE Sept. 8 issue, the headline of a front-page story misstated when former US President Bill Clinton advised Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry on how to beat US President George W. Bush. Clinton gave the advice before—not after—his open-heart surgery.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.



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SC warns lawyers, judges on land claims vs UP campus

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has warned lawyers and judges to stop entertaining "spurious" claims against the University of the Philippines' title to its Quezon City campus.

The warning came in the latest high court ruling dismissing yet another claim against the UP's ownership of a portion of its sprawling campus in Diliman.

"It is well past time for courts and lawyers to cease wasting their time and resources on these worthless causes and take judicial notice of the fact that UP's title had already been validated countless of times by this court," the high tribunal said.

"Any ruling deviating from such doctrine is to be viewed as a deliberate intent to sabotage the rule of law and will no longer be countenanced," it added.

Fake claims

The decision, dated Sept. 8 and released yesterday, affirmed a Court of Appeals ruling dismissing the claim of Domingo Canero over almost 5,000 sq. meters of land in the UP Diliman campus in Barangay Culiat, Tandang Sora.

The SC said the fake claims only "open the dissolute avenues of graft to unscrupulous land-grabbers who prey like vultures upon the campus of UP."

"By such actions, they wittingly or unwittingly aid the hucksters who want to earn a quick buck by misleading the gullible to buy the Philippine counterpart of the proverbial London Bridge," it added.

The state university owns and maintains several buildings in the area being claimed, including the Philcoa wet market, the Asian Institute of Tourism, the Philippine Social Sciences Building, the National Hydraulic Center, the UP Sewage Treatment Plant, the Petron gas station, the UP Arboretum, the Campus Landscaping Office, the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission building, and the Innotech building.

The tribunal said the appellate court was correct in ruling that the Quezon City regional trial court should have dismissed Canero's complaint.

Absolute absurdity

"It is an absolute absurdity to reconstitute existing certificates of title that are on file and available in the deeds of registry," the high court said.

It said that the lower court never acquired jurisdiction over the reconstitution proceedings since it had failed to notify the UP and adjoining property owners.

The high court also noted that Canero registered his title 18 years after the UP had registered its own title over the land.

"Where there are two certificates of title purporting to cover the same land, the person claiming under the certificate earlier registered is the rightful owner of the lot in dispute," the tribunal said.

It said Canero also never presented his so-called "designated caretakers," while UP was able to prove its possession over the land through the buildings and structures it had set up on the lot.

Last year, the SC affirmed the "validity and indefeasibility" of UP's title over its Diliman campus in two decisions in November 2003. In the two cases, the court upheld UP's claim against those of Jorge H. Chin and Renato B. Mallari.

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FIRST SAVINGS SHUTDOWN

Solons blame BSP for bank's collapse

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATORS yesterday ganged up on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for its alleged failure to act early to prevent the collapse of First Savings Bank which it shut down the other day after the bank failed to meet massive deposit withdrawals.

Opposition Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Serge Osmeña III scored the BSP for being lax in its supervision of the cash-strapped bank which services mostly public market vendors and other small depositors.

"I think they are sleeping on the job," Osmeña told reporters, as he assailed the BSP for allowing the bank to continue operations despite reports that 90 percent of its loans were non-performing while its capital has been deficient by P2 million for the last three years.

"How they allowed this bank to reach 90-percent in non-performing loans is just beyond me," he said. The bank should have been closed earlier like two years ago, Osmeña said.

Osmeña said he has asked Sen. Edgardo Angara, who chairs the Senate banks committee, to look into the First Savings case.

Sen. Mar Roxas also sought a Senate inquiry into the collapse of First Savings although the BSP had put the bank under close monitoring and surveillance since 2002.

"This case interests us because BSP officials were aware the bank had been having problems," Roxas said in a statement. "They had wanted to take preemptive action, except they were reluctant because of precedents wherein BSP officials later became the subject of nasty lawsuits."

Roxas said that FSB's problems stemmed from "irregular DOSRI loans that became bad loans." DOSRI loans refer to loans granted by a bank or a corporation to its own directors, stockholders and related interests.

He also asked the public to be wary of banks that offer high interest rates on savings and other deposit accounts, noting that FSB had been offering 10-15 percent interest on regular savings accounts.

Roxas said this interest rate was "unusually high" compared to other banks.

In a statement, Pimentel said the BSP has to "fully explain" to the public its failure to save the thrift bank.

"There is something wrong in the way they are supervising the banks because this thing could not have happened if there is a closer supervision of our banking system," the Senate minority leader said.

Pimentel said the BSP should have "stepped in at the first sign that the FSB was in trouble to calm panicky depositors and prevent a bank run."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said the BSP should classify banks or inform the public on "who are the strong banks and the who are the less strong banks. Then the public is informed and can decide where to put their money," he said.

But Osmeña said the disadvantage of Magsaysay's proposal was that depositors might take out their money in their banks if they found out that it was weaker compared to the others.

"It's good to be transparent but at the same time you'll cause all the weaker banks to suddenly close, endangering even the entire system," Osmeña told reporters.

SC tightens up on use of vehicles

By Philip C. Tubeza

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. has tightened the rules on the use of Supreme Court vehicles in line with the government's austerity plan.

Davide issued a memorandum on Sept. 6 ordering that all of the tribunal's vehicles should be used for official purposes only.

"No Supreme Court vehicle shall be used for purely private social functions or for other personal purposes, or for the spouse, children, relatives, or friends of the official entitled thereto," Davide said.

Unless authorized, the vehicles should not be used during weekends, legal holidays, beyond regular hours for going to and from the office, or outside the route of officials and employees authorized to use them, he added.

The guidelines apply to all SC vehicles, including those in the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, the Office of the Court Administrator, the Philippine Judicial Academy, and the Judicial and Bar Council.

The rules, however, would not apply to the vehicles assigned to the Chief Justice and the SC Associate Justices.

Davide said all SC vehicles assigned to offices and not to specific officials must be kept in the court's compound except when used for strictly official purposes.

The monthly maximum allowable quantity of fuel to be purchased by the court for vehicles assigned to SC officials shall be equivalent to the amount of the officials monthly transportation allowance, to be given in the form of prepaid cards.

Any unused or unspent portion of the prepaid card shall be carried over to the succeeding month. If the card is already used up, all gasoline purchases would be charged against the account of the official using the car.

Electrical, mechanical, and other related services necessary to maintain the roadworthiness of the SC vehicles, except those under warranty, should be done only by the duly accredited service station, subject to the required pre-repair inspection report duly approved by the office of the Chief Justice.

Davide said that, effective Oct. 1, 2004, the court's authorized gasoline and service station shall be the Shell station along United Nations Avenue in Manila.

Youth gab to tackle poverty

POVERTY and its effects on society will be the focus of this year's youth conference of the Rotary Club district in southern Metro Manila. The conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. tomorrow at the Pamantasan Ng Makati.

Among the guest speakers are Undersecretary Bernie Cruz of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

The delegates are thus expected to submit their resolutions to Secretary Imelda Nicolas, head of the NAPC.

To deliver the inspiration address will be Antonio Quila, governor of Rotary District 3830, which is organizing the yearly event.

A young senator is also expected to give the keynote address.

The major sponsors are Chowking, San Miguel Corp., E-bookman, KFC and Mister Donut.

Called the "New Generations Conference," the gathering of some 500 youth leaders aged 15 to 30 years old is a yearly project of the Rotary International to empower the youth. The conference aims to help the youth realize their important role in any country's progress.

For 2004, the Rotary District 3830 chose the theme of "E-Generation" for the conference. It will therefore touch on ecology, economy, education, entertainment, enlightenment, entrepreneurship, ethics, equity, excellence and empowerment for good governance.

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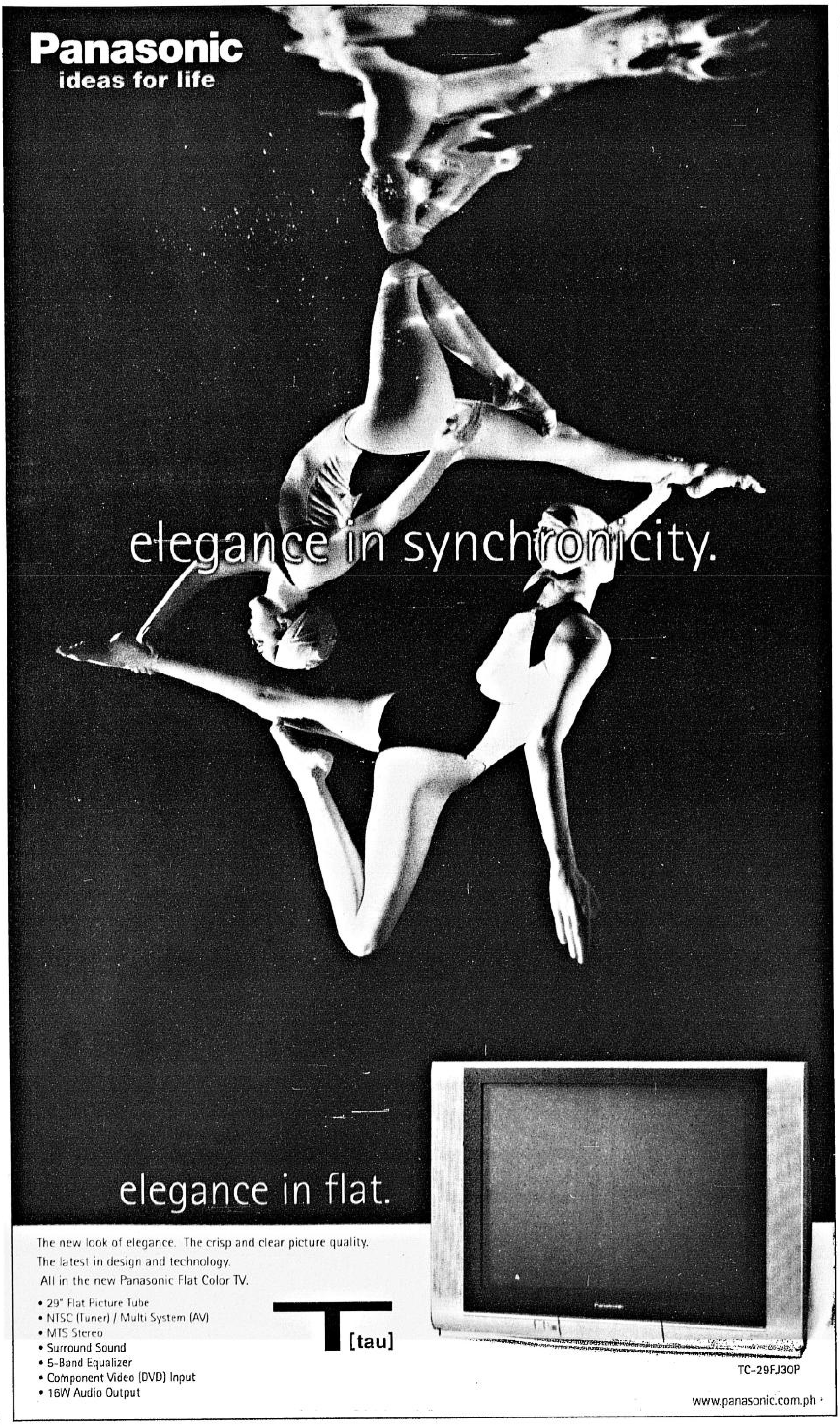

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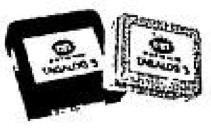

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House body to push for salary hikes

By Carlito Pablo and Martin P. Marfil

IN RESPONSE to mounting clamor for legislated wage hikes in the face of rising prices, the House committee on labor will endorse for approval by the plenary two measures granting a P125-per-day wage hike for private workers and a P3,000 monthly pay hike for government employees.

A party-list representative said that committee chair Rep. Roseller Barinaga (NPC, Zamboanga del Norte) has committed to the immediate approval of the two measures on the committee level despite Malacañang's position of a wage freeze.

"The House committee on labor had approved the wage hike, at least for private workers, during the 12th Congress and there shouldn't be any problem with the same committee," Rep. Renato Magtubo (party-list Partido ng Manggagawa) said.

Magtubo said that while the wage measures will easily pass the committee level, he doubts whether they would get approved on the floor.

Malacañang earlier ruled out any wage increase at this time, warning it would further dampen business activities and even lead to closures. Employers are also opposed to any wage increase, saying it might force companies to shut down and lay off workers.

But the Department of Labor and Employment said it will not interfere with the processes of Congress regarding the issue.

"If ever there is a process for legislated wage increases, we are ready to provide technical support... It's their prerogative, we go by the existing mechanism. If Congress decides to exercise its legislative powers, that's their prerogative," DOLE spokesperson Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio said.

This was echoed by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas. "I agree that wage increase powers is only a delegated authority of Congress. *Di namin matawaran ang* capability *nila* on this matter, *poder naman nila ito* (we cannot belittle their capability on this matter. This is within their powers)," she said in a television interview.

A legislated P125 daily wage hike for private employees, and a P3,000 monthly salary increase for state workers, respectively, are being pushed by Representatives Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano, both of the party-list Anakpawis, through House Bill Numbers. 1063 and 1064.

Militant labor groups such as Kilusang Mayo Uno are pushing for a legislated P125 wage increase, saying this has become more urgent after the National Power Corp. hiked power rates.

The last time a legislated wage increase was granted was in 1989.

Mariano said that a wage hike is "reasonable and justified with the worsening living conditions of our people."

"We've been hit by a series of oil price hikes, electricity costs are rising and so are prices of commodities," he said.

Magtubo explained that a P125 daily pay hike for private workers is not even enough to restore their purchasing power to 1994 levels.

He noted that in Metro Manila, workers get a P300 daily nominal wage. "The real amount of this P300 is only P156 compared to 1994 prices, meaning inflation had eaten up the value of workers' wages," Magtubo said.

House Bill No. 1064 noted that the average pay of government workers is P8,709 per month which is insufficient to meet the higher cost of living. An additional P52 billion would be needed to finance the P3,000 monthly pay increase for government workers.

KMU chair Elmer Labog said Napocor's decision to hike power rates was "unjust" at a time when the purchasing power of the peso is being eroded by the unrelenting increases in the prices of crude oil, transportation and commodities.

"The real value of the P250 minimum wage today is a mere P155, which is continuously being depressed by escalating prices. If Napocor plans to slash more from such a meager amount, what would be left for our families?" Labog said.

The KMU earlier expressed support for a legislated P125 across-the-board wage increase. A hearing on the issue will be held on Sept. 15, KMU said.

Tax scam body told: Shape up or ship out

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum

MALACAÑANG has ordered the task force investigating the multibillion-peso tax credit scam to shape up or face dissolution after a Senate hearing uncovered the fact that it had spent P76 million since 1999 with nothing to show for it.

"We acknowledge the need to improve the performance of the task force," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye at a briefing. "The recommendations of the Senate and the Department of Finance would certainly be considered in any decision about [its] fate."

When asked if Malacañang would consider abolishing Special Presidential Task Force (SPTF) 156, as some senators suggested, Bunye said the "situation is under review."

"The assessment of the task force's performance is intended to put things right if they are wrong," Bunye said.

SPTF 156 was created to go after businessmen and corporations using tax credits fraudulently to dodge the payment of taxes.

The DOF had proposed extending its term, which is to lapse on Oct. 7, because its abolition would jeopardize pending and yet to be filed tax fraud cases against 90 more companies.

But members of the Senate blue ribbon committee probing SPTF 156 rejected the DOF proposal, citing the task force's poor performance. At least 15 tax fraud cases have been dismissed and the task force was said to be set to lose another seven.

Even a key witness in several of the cases involving P5.3 billion in fraudulent tax credits is for dismantling SPTF 156, saying it has failed to serve its purpose despite its P2-million monthly budget.

Felix Chingkoe, co-founder and unseated head of the Chingkoe group of companies, who turned against his brother Faustino, the alleged brains of the tax fraud involving their firms, said in a telephone interview the government should abolish the task force before it could "cause more damage like the burning of the key witnesses."

Felix is expected to testify on the alleged conspiracy hatched by his brother Faustino and finance officials to defraud the government of billions in tax credit certificates (TCCs).

A TCC serves as a company's claim for tax credits, which are granted either to export firms that are entitled to duty-free privileges or to those that have tax refunds due them.

In the case of the 11 Chingkoe companies, Faustino was found to have allegedly conspired with government officials to secure TCCs even if his firms were "not qualified or legally entitled to avail of tax credits."

TRANSPARENCY AT DPWH

Biddings now open to NGOs

By Jerome Aning

NONGOVERNMENT organizations are now allowed to attend and observe the bidding for infrastructure projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways, perceived to be one of most corrupt agencies of government.

Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez said the process was being opened to the NGOs to enhance transparency and help ensure that the right procurement procedures are followed.

"We hope that the participation of NGOs will strengthen our effort to correct the misperception of the public toward the DWPH," Soriquez said, adding that NGO participation would also ultimately spur competitive bidding.

The groups will be invited to cover all aspects of the procurement process, which includes that pre-bid conference, opening of bids, post-qualification, contract award and special meetings of the bids and awards committees.

The NGOs can report to the Office of the Ombudsman or to the DPWH's resident ombudsman if the prescribed procedures are not followed.

The NGOs have the option not to sign the abstract of bids if, in their assessment, the bidding activity failed to follow the correct procedures.

The abstract contains the details of the projects and corresponding offers of the various bidding firms.

The DPWH has accredited 33 NGOs from nine of the country's 16 regions to observe the bidding conducted in the department's central, regional and district offices.

The initial list did not contain any NGOs from the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa (Marinduque, Mindoro, Palawan and Romblon), Bicol, Western and Eastern Visayas regions and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Soriquez said the bids and awards committees would choose from the list of NGOs with trained representatives to participate in the procurement process.

In Metro Manila, the NGO observers are: Procurement Watch, Transparency and Accountability Network Foundation, Konsensyang Pilipino, Evelio B. Javier Foundation, Transparency International Phil., Ateneo School of Government, Philippine Chamber of Industrial Estates and Ecozones, and the Philippine Institute for Supply Management.

NGOs wishing to apply as observers must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. They should also have the knowledge, experience or expertise in procurement as required under Section 13.2 of the implementing rules and regulations of Government Procurement Reform Act, or RA 9184.

The NGO list is updated by a DPWH technical working group at least once every semester in coordination with Procurement Watch, the firm authorized to conduct training programs for NGO representatives.

September skies show 'parade of bright planets'

"A PARADE of bright planets" is how the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration is describing these September nights.

Even to the untrained eye or telescope users, and with some patience, most of the members of the solar system can be spotted in the night sky for the whole month, Pagasa said.

The two giant gas planets Neptune and Uranus will be visible from the eastern horizon after sunset, according to an astrological diary released by the agency.

Neptune will be "glimmering" at almost 60 degrees from the horizon at around 9:30 p.m., while Uranus will appear brightly at 45 degrees also around the same time. Through a telescope, Uranus will appear blue-green.

Towards dawn, it will be the turn of Saturn and Venus to glow best." (This) pairing will dominate the early morning hours. Both planets can be found almost 15 degrees and 10 degrees, respectively, from the eastern horizon at around 3:45 a.m," Pagasa said.

The Roman goddess of love, however, will "outshine" the god of agriculture.

Wife denies Tiglao had heart attack

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

"HE'S OKAY now, he winked and waved at me," Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao's wife Getsy told the INQUIRER yesterday after her husband underwent quintuple coronary bypass surgery on Wednesday morning.

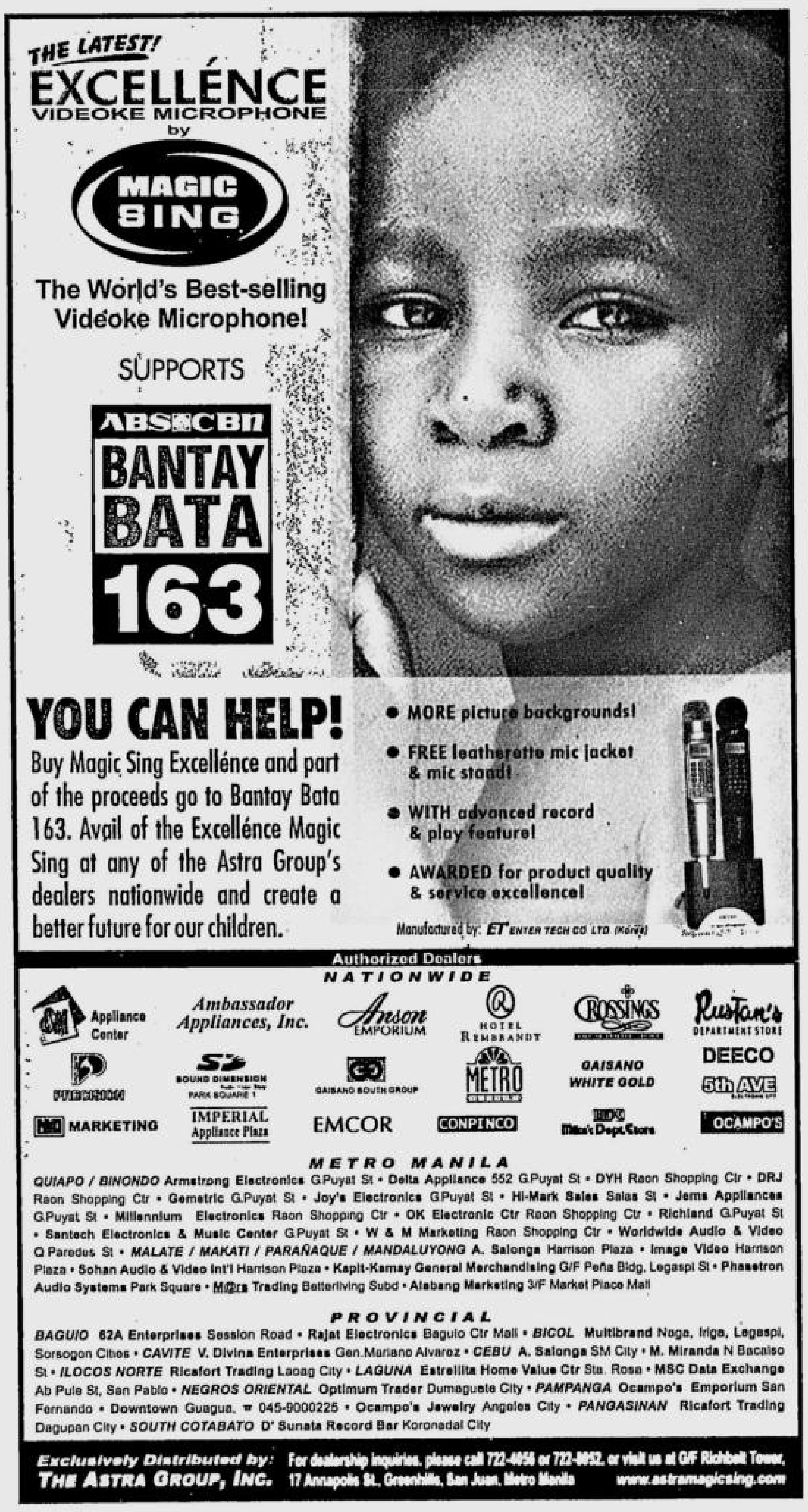
Getsy denied Tiglao had suffered a heart attack, saying the open-heart surgery was done precisely to prevent a major attack.

Tiglao had complained of chest pains on Monday morning, the day after a trip to Tagaytay City and Nasugbu, Batangas, with Getsy and some friends to check out the church and reception venue for their coming church wedding. Getsy had wed Tiglao, a widower, in civil rites in 2002.

Getsy denied job-related stress had caused Tiglao's heart condition. She said the culprit was his 30-year two-pack-a-day smoking habit.

"The bypass was an aggressive corrective treatment recommended by the doctors at the Heart Center," a statement from Tiglao's family said. "His doctors said Secretary Tiglao is recovering well and they expect full recovery in a few weeks."

Getsy recalled that her husband suffered shortness of breath after climbing the stone steps to the Careluega Chapel in Nasugbu on Sunday. "And when we reached the church, he even smoked," she said.



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House OKs postponement of ARMM polls for May

By Carlito Pablo

THE HOUSE has approved the deferment of the Sept. 13 elections of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to the second Monday of May 2005.

It was the first bill passed by the House for the 13th Congress.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said that the postponement will not only result in savings for both government and prospective candidates but also enhance the atmosphere for efforts to forge a final peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"The postponement would significantly reduce the divisiveness and negative politics in the Muslim region and save another P300 million from election expenses in the regional elections," De Venecia said.

"Now that the government and the MILF peace panels are in the final stages of working out a peace agreement, the polls' postponement would not only contribute to political stability in the region but also help to provide ample time for credible, clean and honest elections in 2005," the Speaker also said.

De Venecia earlier said that a peace accord with the MILF will allow the separatist movement to participate and field candidates in the ARMM elections.

De Venecia said that he had requested Senate President Franklin Drilon to convene on Monday the bicameral conference committee to reconcile the respective versions of the poll deferment by the two chambers of Congress.

Earlier this week, the Senate approved a measure deferring the ARMM polls to the second Monday of September 2005.

Supposedly up for grabs in the elections this year are the positions of regional governor, vice governor and members of the regional legislative assembly of ARMM.

The ARMM covers the provinces of Sulu, Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Tawi-Tawi.

The House passed on Wednesday night House Bill No. 2808, the consolidated version of several bills seeking to postpone the ARMM elections.

The same bill sets the regular ARMM elections every three years after the second Monday of May 2005.

Malacañang had earlier certified the bill as an urgent administration measure.

The Commission on Elections had said that it does not have the funds to conduct the elections this September.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 10, 2004
23rd Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27
Gospel: Lk 6:39-42

Jesus offered this example, "Can a blind person lead another blind person? Surely both will fall into a ditch. A disciple is not above the master; but when fully trained, he will be like the master. So why do you pay attention to the speck in your brother's eye while you have a log in your eye and are not conscious of it? How can you say to your neighbor: 'Friend, let me take this speck out of your eye,' when you can't remove the log in your own? You hypocrite! First remove the log from your own eye and then you will see clearly enough to remove the speck from your neighbor's eye."

Commentary

TODAY'S reading is in direct continuity with yesterday's. We are still looking at that extraordinary teaching by Jesus. "Judge not!" is the same as "Love your enemies." In both cases it is the self-centered basis that is being removed. I read where a scholar translated this "Judge not" as "Try to be more lenient in your judgments!" This misses the point exactly. If you judge, even leniently, you are still on your throne of judgment-probably admiring yourself for your leniency! St. Paul wrote, "Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God" (Rom 14:10). That was calculated to dampen our enthusiasm for judging one another.

In Greek mythology, Narcissus was distinguished for his beauty. His mother was told that he would have a long life, provided he never looked upon his own features. However, he rejected the love of the nymph Echo and fell in love with his own reflection in the waters of a spring and pined away. In psychoanalysis the term "narcissism" means excessive self-esteem or self-involvement. Many things we call by nicer names could well be forms of narcissism (or at least they have to pass the test): judging others and finding them wanting, deploring the variety of opinions in circulation, trying to convert people to our view....

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Opportunity knocks but once. JOB Market

No post-poll honeymoon for GMA

Arroyo rating plunges on suspicion of election fraud, says survey

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

UNLIKE her three predecessors, President Macapagal-Arroyo did not enjoy a "post-election honeymoon" with the public giving her a low performance rating of 12 percent two months into her new term.

The Social Weather Stations said the drop in Ms Arroyo's rating in the SWS' Aug. 5-22 survey was connected to widespread public suspicion that her opponents in the May presidential election were cheated.

A majority of 55 percent believed that opposition tandem Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Loren Legarda were cheated, the SWS said.

The survey showed that 48 percent were satisfied and 36 percent were dissatisfied with Ms Arroyo's performance in office, giving her a net rating of +12.

Ratings decline

The pollster said this was a significant decline from her net ratings of 26 percent in June and 30 percent in March.

In the June 4-30 survey, or a month after the election, Ms Arroyo had 57 percent satisfied and 25 percent dissatisfied respondents. In the March 21-29 survey, there were 55 percent satisfied and 25 percent dissatisfied with the President.

"Thus the public have not given President Arroyo a post-election victory honeymoon, unlike Presidents Aquino, Ramos and Estrada, who all obtained very high net ratings in the +60s in the first few quarters after taking office," the SWS said in its report.

Vested interests

Ms Arroyo apparently got what she had wished for.

She said in a Manila Overseas Press Club forum early this week that she would pursue economic and political reforms against "vested interests" even if she would become unpopular.

Ms Arroyo, who has said the country is having a fiscal crisis, has been criticized for asking for new taxes that would impose additional burden on the people already suffering from a series of increases in the prices of oil, power and basic commodities.

The SWS said the survey results show a "very strong relationship between dissatisfaction with the President and suspicion of cheating in the election."

Definite cheating

The SWS said that among those who saw definite cheating in the May election, 63 percent were dissatisfied with Ms Arroyo and only 23 percent were satisfied, giving her zero net rating.

On the other hand, among those who believed Ms Arroyo's opponents were "probably not cheated" 60 percent were satisfied and only 20 percent were dissatisfied for a net rating of 52 percent.

The survey said 23 percent said Poe and Legarda were "definitely cheated" and another 32 percent said they were "probably cheated," a total of 55 percent doubting the official result of the election where Ms Arroyo led Poe by more than one million votes.

Bigger lead

Ms Arroyo's running mate Vice President Noli de Castro had a bigger lead over Legarda.

The survey further showed that 24 percent believed Poe and Legarda were "probably not cheated" and 17 percent said they were "definitely not cheated" or a total of 41 percent accepting the result. Four percent had no answer or refused to respond.

"Those suspecting election cheating were the majorities among Metro Manilans (57 percent), other Luzonians (61 percent) and Mindanaoans (60 percent) and a minority among Visayans (32 percent)," the SWS said. The election results showed the Visayas was resoundingly for Ms Arroyo, with Cebu alone giving her a one million lead over Poe.

Metro rating

The SWS said that in Metro Manila, Ms Arroyo's rating fell from plus 14 percent to minus 7 in August. Her ratings also fell in Luzon (from 14 to 3 percent), Mindanao (35 to 11 percent) and among the *masa* or Class D (from 23 to 12 percent) and in the very poor Class E (33 to 10 percent).

The upper classes ABC were split on the question of whether Poe and Legarda were cheated, with 48 percent saying they were either definitely or probably cheated and 47 percent saying they were probably and definitely not cheated.

PALACE REACTION

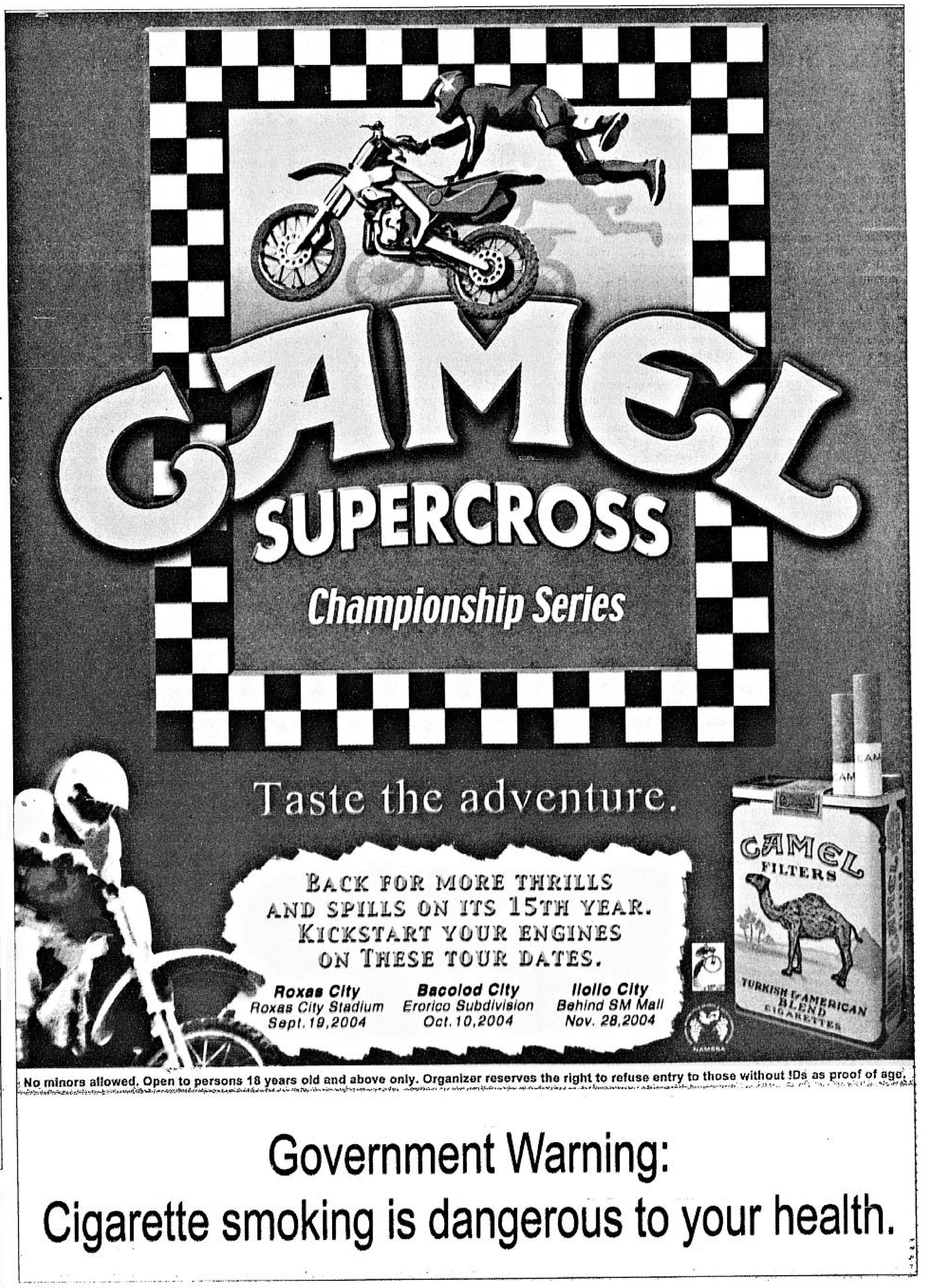
MALACAÑANG said the "adversities facing the people" drove Ms Arroyo's rating down.

"We wanted a honeymoon with the media but what with the realities of the economic crisis," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "Nonetheless, we are satisfied with the relative positive ratings which show solid public satisfaction with the President's leadership."

But Bunye cried foul on the suspicion the administration cheated.

"The polls on cheating are a throwback to the past. The Presidential Electoral Tribunal has already taken jurisdiction over the issues. We have to shed off these perceptions and get on with the difficult task at hand," Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye added: "We see hope and solidarity behind the President. We will prevail over the problems in the long run."



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US missile strike in Fallujah also kills 5 children, 2 women

FALLUJAH, Iraq—Women and children were among 12 Iraqis killed in the hotspot of Fallujah when US jets struck targets which the military charged were hideouts used by the most wanted man in Iraq.

Local residents removed bodies from the rubble of a house in the restive Sunni Muslim city demolished in the dead of night by a US missile while people were sleeping, an AFP correspondent said.

The US Air Force has been relentlessly pounding the extremist militant stronghold since seven marines were killed on Monday in a car bomb attack against a convoy which also left three Iraqi national guardsmen dead.

Dr. Mushtak Taleb from Fallujah's general hospital said 12 bodies had been brought in, including five children and two women, and that at least nine people had been wounded since the raids began.

Witnesses said that the family who lived in the single-story house was sleeping on the roof when the missile plowed through the building, blowing their bodies to smithereens.

The roof had collapsed entirely and two small cranes were trying to lift up the debris to allow rescuers to search for more people.

Several neighboring houses in the Nowad al-Dhubat district were damaged and children could be seen sifting through rubble and mangled metal to help collect pieces of flesh.

"We were sleeping on the roof because the electricity keeps going off at night. When the the explosion went off, the blast threw me back by at least five meters," said neighbor Khaled Abbas.

"First I thought the explosion was in my house but when I awoke from the shock I saw that the neighbors had been hit," he said.

He said the owner of the house had four wives, two of whom lived in the house with at least 10 children.

"All the children next door used to fill the streets with noise. Today I hope they will be like birds in heaven," Abbas said. "I want to know why the Americans decided to bomb a family with children." *AFP*

FOUR-MONTH-OLD Mustafa Hassan (center) is taken to the hospital after being wounded following a US Army bombardment early morning in Fallujah Sept. 9. REUTERS

Clinton removed from intensive care, is walking

NEW YORK—Former US president Bill Clinton was removed from intensive care Wednesday, and managed to take his first steps since undergoing multiple-bypass open heart surgery.

"He has been sitting up in bed, and has walked across the room with assistance and sat in a chair, all signs of his continuing recovery," Clinton's office said in a statement.

Clinton was taken out of the intensive care unit at New York Presbyterian Hospital in the afternoon, two days after undergoing a four-hour operation Monday.

The former president was given a quadruple bypass, which doctors said had come just in time to avoid a major heart attack.

He will continue to recuperate in his hospital room "for several days," the statement said.

Clinton, 58, was admitted to hospital on Friday complaining of chest pains and shortness of breath. Several of the former president's main blood vessels were found to have a blockage of more than 90 percent.

Clinton's heart was stopped for 73 minutes during Monday's operation, a now common but still delicate procedure, which bypasses blocked arteries so that blood can flow properly.

Even after his eventual discharge from hospital, Clinton will need to recuperate for several months—raising questions over his plans to hit the campaign trail in support of Bush's Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry. *AFP*

WHO: Suicides preventable if gov'ts, people take action

GENEVA—Every second, someone around the world tries to commit suicide. Every 40 seconds, someone succeeds.

But many of the roughly 1 million people who commit suicide every year could be saved if governments and doctors improved efforts to educate and treat people with mental problems, and simply removed the means by which people kill themselves, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

"Suicide is a major problem of public health which many people believe isn't a problem, prefer not to talk about and really make an effort to hide," said Dr. Jose Bertolote, of the agency's mental health department, speaking in advance of World Suicide Prevention Day, on Friday.

More people die each year from suicide than from homicides and wars combined, and in most European countries the number of suicides is higher than the number of traffic deaths.

Suicide figures are highest in the Baltic states, Russia and Finland, and lowest in Muslim countries and Latin America.

In 1950, 40 percent of suicides were committed by people under 45, but by 1998 that figure had risen to 55 percent.

Many suicides could be prevented if people didn't have easy access to weapons, poisons or medicines, campaigners say. Timely treatment of mental illness and drug and alcohol dependency would further reduce the figures.

"We want to give the message to the authorities and the public that suicide is not inevitable, and that those who are suicidal do not inevitably commit suicide," said Lars Mehlum, president of the International Association for Suicide Prevention.

"The vast majority of suicidal people do not want to die, they just don't want to live under. the conditions in which they have to live. We can do a lot. And this isn't just for doctors—this is for the conscientious citizen."

WHO says educating health care personnel to detect mental problems and running courses to help children and adults handle life's problems—such as unemployment or relationship difficulties—can prevent many suicide attempts.

The move by many pharmaceutical companies to provide their drugs in blister packs rather than in bottles has resulted in a significant reduction in their use as a method of suicide, WHO said.

Restrictions on firearms in some countries also have led to a decrease in their use for suicide, the organization said.

A big problem in developing countries, WHO said, is the ready availability of pesticides, which are often used in suicide attempts. *AP*

Russia eyes preemptive strikes on terror camps

MOSCOW—Russia warned Wednesday it could launch preemptive strikes on terror bases anywhere in the world and put a bounty on two top Chechen rebels after the broadcast of a chilling video of the school hostage siege.

"We will take steps to liquidate terror bases in any region" in the world, Russian Chief of Staff General Yury Baluyevsky told reporters at a meeting with US Gen. James Jones, Nato's supreme allied commander for Europe.

Baluyevsky noted that the doctrine of preventive military action against terror targets had been spelled out publicly before and said such steps were only an "extreme measure" that did not include use of nuclear force.

His remarks nonetheless reflected a hardening mood in Moscow a day after a television network aired video footage of scared children and parents sitting in the school gym in southern Beslan as masked militants rigged bombs over their heads.

The European Union sought to downplay the warning on preemptive action against terror targets, but British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw backed the comments, calling the reaction "understandable.."

Russia's FSB intelligence and security agency announced a cash reward of 300 million rubles ($10 million) for information leading to the "neutralization" of two top Chechen rebels accused of planning the Beslan siege. *AFP*

How do some stay thin in a fat, fat world?

By Emma Ross

LONDON—At 43, Anita Sanders is a sylph who can eat as much as she likes without having to exercise like a fiend.

"I can't say I work hard on trying to stay slim," she admits, adding that she is passionate about food. She puts her slimness down to lucky genes and nervous energy.

"I eat whatever I want but I feel full quite quickly, and I'm not one of those people who runs after the guy carrying the canape tray as he passes by."

Sanders is in a shrinking minority of people who follow a Western lifestyle. The norm is to be fat. In most of western Europe, easily more than half the adults are overweight, and in the United States two-thirds are fat.

What, then, explains the ability of Sanders and others like her to stay thin in such an environment?

The answer is complex and not the same for everyone. Apart from upbringing and environment, scientists are discovering, genes and biology are more important than previously believed.

"The people who are not increasing their weight have something special—they are resistant to obesity," said Philippe Froguel, an obesity exert and chair of genomic medicine at Imperial College in London.

Experts are investigating couch potato genes, stop-eating genes, can't-resist genes, and even the possibility of a party platter gene—which turns people into opportunistic eaters, who eat whenever they are offered food.

"If there is such a thing, I most definitely have that party platter gene," said Jonathan Bell, a 32-year-old information technology specialist who struggles with his weight. "I'm one of those who lives to eat. I'd like to say that I can pass those things up, but my body craves it."

Bell, who lives in London, confesses an emotional attachment to food. His mother would offer chocolate in exchange for good behavior when he was a child, and that habit has stuck with him.

It also takes a lot of eating before he feels satisfied—a stop-eating trait that experts say is genetically based.

"I'd love to have that thing where I eat something and five minutes later I'm full, but I don't get that. I always get overfull when I eat because it doesn't click in in time," said Bell, who is almost 40 pounds (18 kg) overweight.

Each person has a unique profile of genes, biology and lifestyle; a slight tweak in any of those influences could make the difference between fat and thin, experts say. Where they disagree is over how powerful each individual factor is alone.

"There are about 340 genes involved in weight control. Most of them increase the likelihood of your being fat, but there are actually genes that protect against being fat," said Dr. Stephan Rossner, head of the obesity unit and professor of health behavior research at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

"You can have muscles that react just a little slower; a mental setting that makes you just a little more prone to use food for comfort or a body temperature that is just one-tenth of a centigrade higher," Rossner said. "If you have 20 of these factors all going in one direction—but still each and every one of them is normal—that can explain why people who live in the same environment weigh different amounts."

While the laws of physics—which dictate that you cannot get fat unless you eat more calories than you burn—are inviolable, a person's genetic makeup influences the decisions made about eating and exercising, experts say.

There are certainly lean people who can eat whatever they want, but in many cases, like Sanders, they don't want much.

"What we have found with our (obesity) resistant people is that they do have a greater satiety than the susceptible ones," said Dr. John Blundell, chair of psychobiology at the human appetite research unit at Leeds University in England. "When they are offered the same amounts of food at different times, they eat less and it suppresses their hunger more. Their appetite system seems to operate more sensitively."

Eating increases the levels of the calming brain chemical dopamine. Brain scans have indicated that obese people have a lower concentration of dopamine receptors in their brains than lean people do. *AP*

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF SCRAP / JUNK ITEMS
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS .

DATE OF BIDDING : **Sept. 29, 2004, 2:00 PM**, Solarium Multi-Purpose Hall, Building-1 Ground Floor NPC-Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following items.

SCHEDULE I

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1	One (1) lot of unserviceable plant parts, returned equipment and used/ junk items such as: copper-tubes, radiator elements, telephone wires, electric cables, automotive parts, and spares junk vehicles, office equipment, laboratory equipment, scrap metals, batteries, service transformer, as shown in the pictures. Located at Pantabangan HEP, Nueva Ecija Province.	P 401,803.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot of unserviceable and scrap metals, consisting of assorted scrap iron and copper wires and cables. Located at NPC-MEC, Brgy. Buli and at Sucat TPP, Muntinlupa City.	P 1,092,960.00/lot
3.	One (1) lot of unserviceable items, junk equipment and scrap iron and copper wires. Located at NPC-SPUG Compound in Brgy. Minuyan, San Jose Del Monte City (Bulacan)..	P 233,950.00/lot

SCHEDULE – II

	Two-Year Contract of Sale:	Minimum Bid Price
1.	**Old Records / Used papers at NPC HO** (Bond Deposit Required P 3,500 00)	P 5.00 / kg.
2.	**Old Newspapers / cartons at NPC HO** (Bond Deposit Required . P 2,000 00)	P 1.50 / kg.
3.	**Used Continuous Forms at NPC HO** (Bond Deposit Required : P1,000.00)	P 9.27 / kg.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.**
2. **LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN 2003 ORIGINAL (OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY) FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY.**

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return (Original must be presented).

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from S V Lomuntad Jr at Bldg 1, Ground Floor NPC Head Office Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. **Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 PM September 28, 2004.**

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – September 8, 9 & 10, 2004)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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Website http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
HNC 04-09-02

The Department of Education through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting suppliers and printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET
Supply and Delivery of Dental Anesthetics	P 575,000 00
Supply and Delivery of Otoscopes/Opthalmoscopes	P 825,000 00
Supply and Delivery of Dental Forceps	P 589,985 00
Printing and Delivery of Drug Education Modules	P 800,000 00

All interested suppliers and printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent specifying the item/s you wish to bid and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300 00) starting **September 13 - 30, 2004,** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112-A, Mabini Bldg . DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at ***http://www.deped.gov.ph.***

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 23, 2004, 10:00 AM** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on October 7, 2004 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI – September 10, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region Office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE OF AUCTION OF RAW SUGAR "B" STOCKS

The National Food Authority, Regional Office 10, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City invites all interested licensed sugar traders, industrial users and other interested buyers to participate and tender offers in the auction for the whole lot of 138,046.53 Lkg. Raw Sugar "B" or Domestic Sugar located at the following sugar mill:

LOT	PROVINCE	SUGAR MILL	QUANTITY (in Lkg)	INDICATIVE PRICE (P/Lkg)
1	Bukidnon	Busco Milling Corporation	138,046.53	P770 00, Net of Liens ex-mill

The sale shall be for the total volume ex-mill on an "as-is-where-is" and no selection basis.

All interested offerors are required to post a Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the total amount offered in the form of Cash / Manager's Check or PNB Demand Draft payable to NFA.

Only prospective bidders who have submitted the following requirements to the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) prior to Auction proper are qualified to participate.

1. Original and one (1) certified photocopy of Sugar Trading License / DTI Registration Mayor's Permit.
2. Original and one (1) certified photocopy of SEC / CDA Registration for partnership/ cooperative.
3. Duly notarized Special Power of Attorney from the sole proprietor or Board Resolution from the secretary/chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the entity as an official/employee/stockholder and is authorized to represent the same in the Auction and all activities pertinent therein

The auction shall be conducted at the NFA-10 Regional Office Conference Room, Baloy Cagayan de Oro City on the following schedule:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
Submission of Requirements	Sept 17, 2004	8:30 – 10:00 A M
Pre-Auction Conference	Sept 17, 2004	10:00 A M

Auction Proper will follow after the Pre-Auction Conference.

The auction terms and conditions and tender forms can be secured from the RBAC Secretariat at NFA-10, Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City, after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P500 00.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such bids which in its judgment are deemed most reasonable and advantageous to the NFA.

For more details, please contact the RBAC Secretariat Head, Ms. Emma P. Asiñero at Telephone Nos. (088-22) - 732215 and (088) – 8552721.

(Sgd.) CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO
Asst. Regional Director /
RBAC-NORMIN CHAIRMAN

(PDI – September 10 & 13, 2004)

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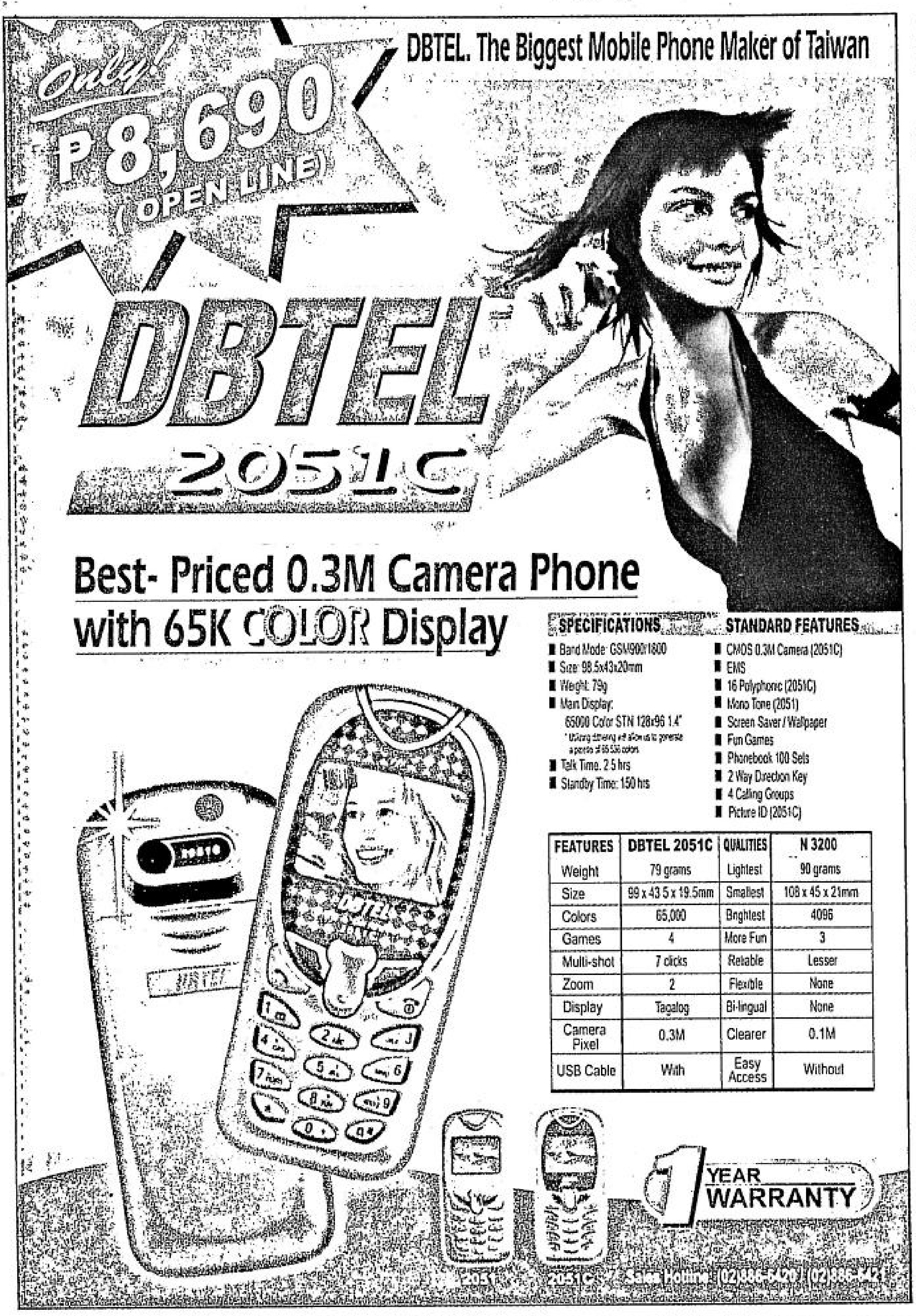
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- Picture ID (2051C)

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Games	4	More Fun	3
Multi-shot	7 clicks	Reliable	Lesser
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S. Korea admits nuke arms bid in early '80s

SEOUL—South Korea admitted on Thursday that its scientists extracted a small amount of plutonium, a key ingredient for making nuclear bombs, in secret research in the early 1980s.

The admission comes just one week after the country made startling revelations that it had conducted unauthorized experiments to enrich uranium, also used to build nuclear weapons.

A government official said a recent visit by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to a South Korean government-run nuclear research center was linked to the previously undisclosed research on plutonium.

"We have been in consultation with the IAEA over the inspection of our nuclear research activity (based on plutonium) in the early 1980s," the government official, who declined to be named, told reporters.

South Korea admitted last week that the same research center conducted unauthorized tests to enrich uranium four years ago.

The plutonium research was conducted at a now-defunct "TRIGA-type" research reactor at the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute, at the time located in a northern Seoul suburb, the official said.

"A small number of scientists were engaged in the experiment to analyze the chemical properties of plutonium, but there have been no records on their research or on how much plutonium was extracted," the Ministry of Science and Technology said in a statement.

"An investigation showed that a miniscule amount of plutonium was extracted in April and May 1982," the statement added.

The statement said that Seoul filed a report to the IAEA in September 1983, concerning nuclear material that had gone missing. It added that equipment used for the test was later scrapped but is still in the possession of the research institute.

South Korean officials said the experiment did not violate Seoul's commitments under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which seeks to prevent the use of nuclear technology for military purposes.

Seoul last week admitted that its scientists four years ago had carried out an unauthorized experiment at the state-run research center in Daejon, south of Seoul, to enrich uranium. It denied the research was linked to a weapons program.

An IAEA team investigated South Korea's nuclear activities last week and its findings will be discussed at a four-day board meeting of the nuclear watchdog next week.

The clandestine activity embarrassed both the United States and its ally South Korea at a time when they are trying through six-party talks to pressure communist North Korea to end its nuclear weapons drive.

South Korean officials insist that the country has no interest in acquiring atomic bombs. Seoul abandoned any such ambitions in the 1970s, they say, after Washington persuaded then-military dictator Park Chung-hee to give up his clandestine nuclear weapons program.

However North Korea, responding to the uranium enrichment revelations, said on Wednesday that the South's nuclear activities could trigger an arms race in the region.

"We view South Korea's uranium enrichment program as part of armament race in the Northeast Asian region," Han Song-ryol, deputy chief of North Korea's mission to the United Nations, told the Yonhap News Agency.

"It will be difficult to prevent the spread of armament race in the region due to the South's nuclear experiment." *AFP*

Costa Rica court orders government to withdraw from US-led coalition

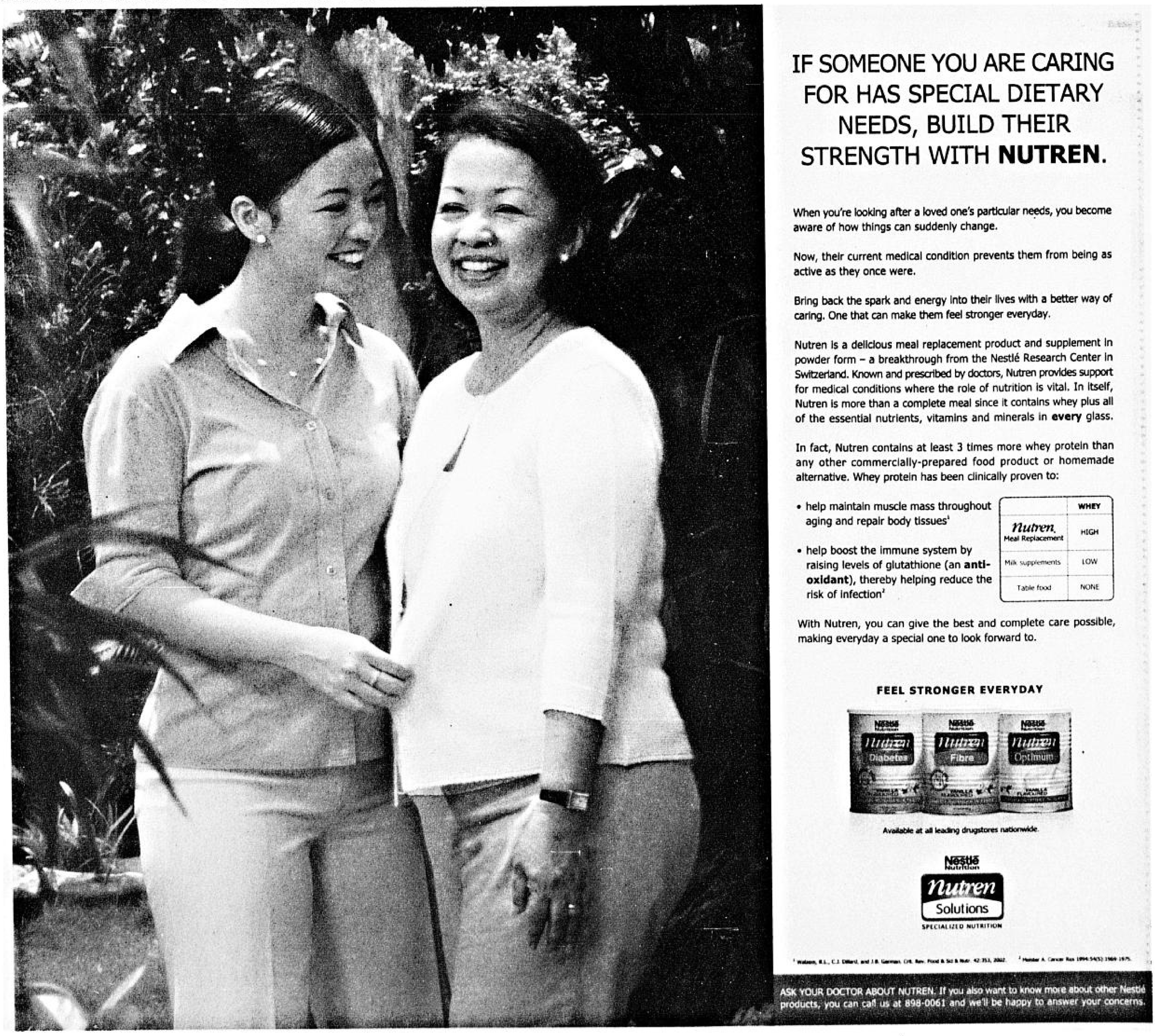
SAN JOSE—The constitutional court of Costa Rica has ordered the government to withdraw the country's name from an international coalition that supports the US-led war in Iraq, officials said Wednesday.

"We have been told that for constitutional reasons we must withdraw from the list of coalition members," Costa Rican Foreign Minister Roberto Tovar told reporters.

The court has found three constitutional violations in the decision of the government of President Abel Pacheco to include Costa Rica in the coalition.

The case against the government was brought by a University of Costa Rica law student.

Tovar said the court ruling will be respected and executed immediately. *AFP*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Erythromycin can trigger cardiac deaths, says study

TRENTON, New Jersey—A widely used antibiotic that was long considered safe dramatically increases the risk of cardiac arrest, particularly when taken with some popular drugs for infections and high blood pressure, a huge study has found.

The drug is erythromycin, which has been on the market for 50 years and is prescribed for everything from strep throat to syphilis.

The new study shows the need for continuing research on the safety of older medicines, including how they interact with newer drugs, said researcher Wayne A. Ray, a professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee.

Taken alone, erythromycin doubled the very low risk of sudden cardiac death among patients in the study.

In patients taking other drugs—those that increase erythromycin's concentration in the blood—the risk of cardiac death was more than five times greater, Ray and his colleagues found. That translates to six deaths for every 10,000 people taking erythromycin for the typical two weeks while on the other drugs.

"This is an unacceptably high risk," Ray said.

Nobody realized the magnitude of the problem before, said Dr. Muhamed Saric, a cardiologist and director of the electrocardiology laboratory at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark. "It was thought that erythromycin is a generally safe drug."

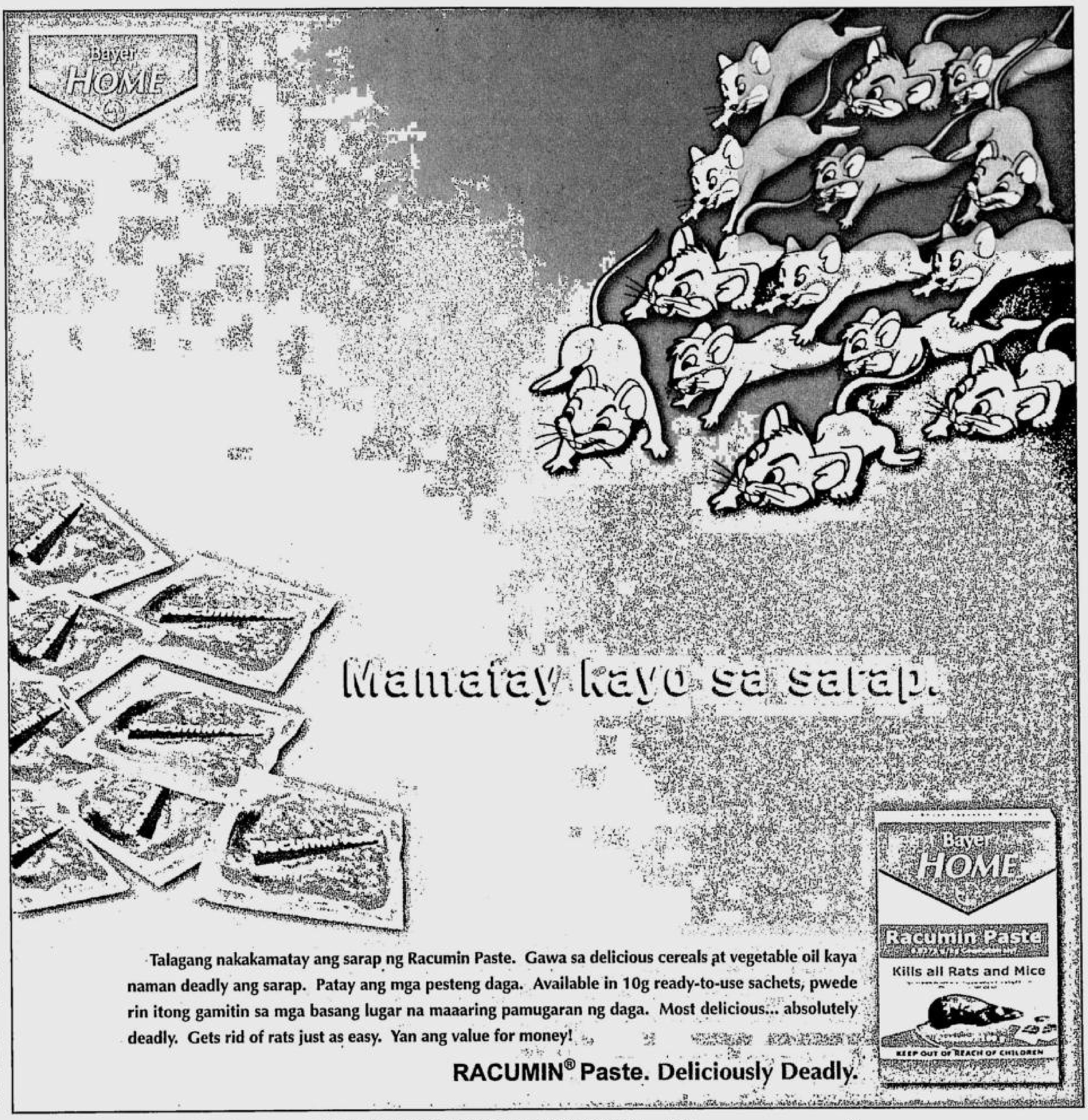
Most heart doctors knew erythromycin alone carried a slight risk because of some individual reports on patient deaths, mostly in people who took the drug intravenously. However, family doctors are less likely to know about it, Saric said.

This study, in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, was the first to systematically document the risk. It focused on much more commonly used erythromycin pills—usually sold as a generic—along with certain medicines for infections and calcium channel blockers for high blood pressure.

Ray said the danger seems to come from other drugs slowing the breakdown of erythromycin, which increases its concentration. At high levels, it traps salt inside resting heart muscle cells, prolonging the time until the next heartbeat starts, and sometimes triggering an abnormal, potentially fatal, rhythm.

The findings show doctors should choose an alternative antibiotic, Ray said, at least when prescribing the drugs that interact. Amoxicillin, another popular antibiotic, showed no cardiac risk.

AP



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Twice shy

EDITORIAL

ONCE burned, twice shy, as the saying goes. President Macapagal-Arroyo may have announced her intention to get tough. She may even be serious about not being held hostage by vested interests. The fact is, however, that we've all heard this before, and no one is falling over himself expecting anything to really change.

The President shouldn't be surprised if her attempts at talking tough are received with skepticism. She is about the only President we have had who has deliberately resisted the urge to make grand statements and attempt rhetoric that soars. Thus, she cannot expect the country to leap to its feet in rapture the moment she tries to sound grand.

The truth is, even if the President had a penchant for rhetoric, the country is past confusing rhetorical flourishes for real achievements. We have all experienced too many grand visions being spun in speeches while the reality of daily life only gets worse. The country wants to see results; it wants to see action, not hear words. It certainly knows better than to take any politician, including the President, at face value.

When the President speaks against vested interests, first of all, she must consider how much she is identified with those interests. In the public mind, she is as much wedded to those interests as she herself claims to be married to the nation. Her husband himself, represents the oldest, most enduring vested interest of all, the landed oligarchy. Her political allies themselves represent all the vested interests that have plagued our country: the commercial elite, the various factions of our traditional political dynasties, the families of warlords. It is safe to say that under her administration, the country has failed to witness a sustained period when Ms Arroyo turned her back on vested interests and opted for a grander, braver, approach to politics.

Her deliberate avoidance of rhetoric has been matched by her willful avoidance of political risk when pragmatic accommodation can gain her support. She has dared far less than she has demonstrated as wanting, by making backroom deals and doling out patronage. Hers is not an innovative administration in the political sense; it is a political operator's paradise, with all the built-in cynicism and corrupt and corrupting tendencies this implies.

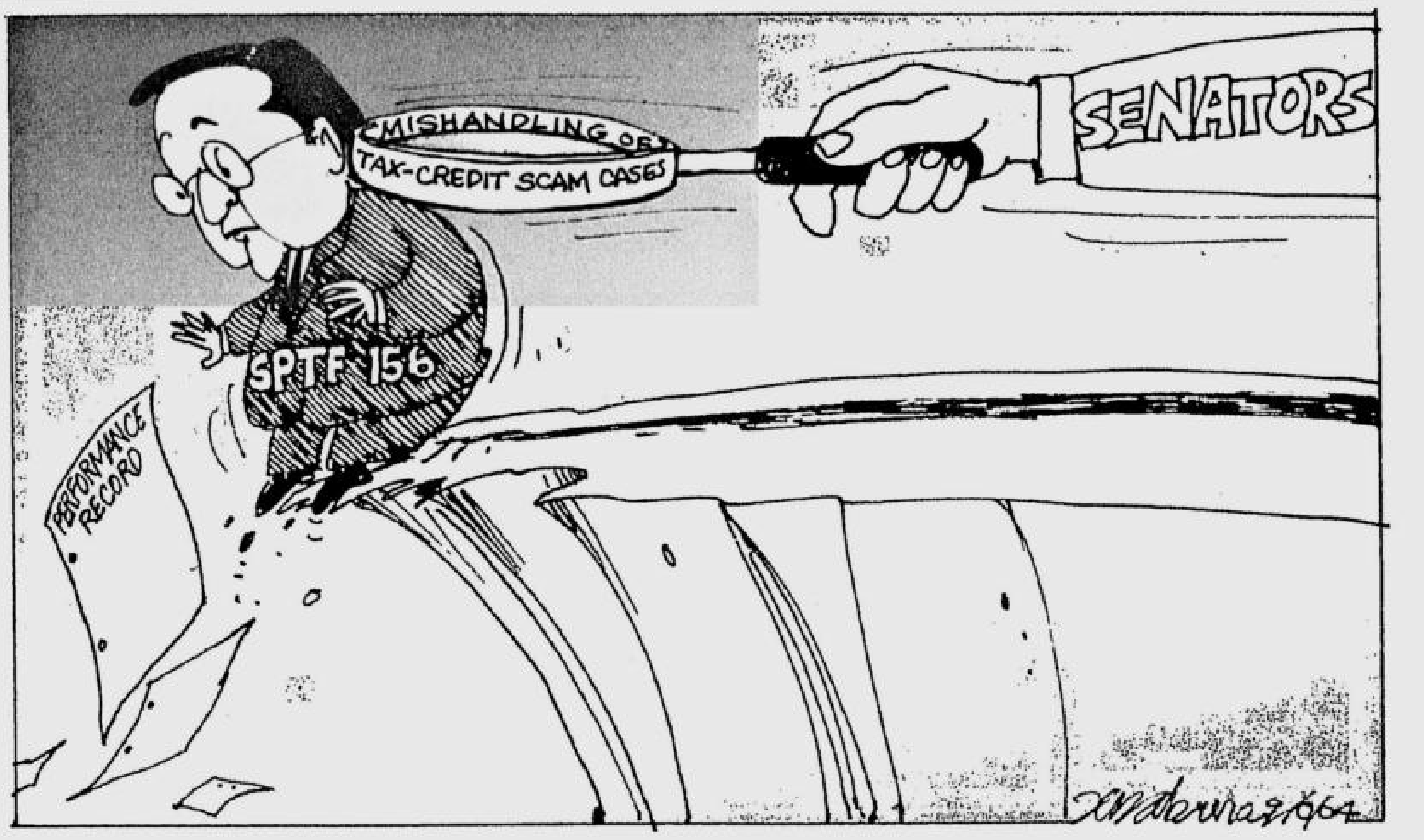
To top it off, the President has shown that when presented with a choice, the crooked road is more to her liking than the straight path. She would rather deal with the power players, the bosses and fixers than the people who want the system fixed. (Just look at many of her Cabinet appointments or Malacañang's stout defense of the pork barrel.) Whenever the low ground has presented itself, she opts to take it instead of trying to maintain the high ground in her political conduct. (Consider her state visit to China with her whole family in tow, including *apos* who are much too young to appreciate anything they saw there, much less the significance of the event.)

This, then, is why the public's response to her latest vow to not be held hostage by vested interests has been underwhelming. Tough words followed by tough action are not what she has come to be known for. While she retains the grudging respect and even admiration of many, for her personal discipline and keen mind, she cannot aspire—not yet and not soon—to be considered a crusading reformer.

It is simply too alien a concept for the people to buy. And it is certainly not something a population now used to being let down will cheer and applaud with any conviction.

It may be that the President has had a genuine change of heart. She may be sincere. But she is on probation. She cannot, and should not, expect any credit until the public sees those vested interests taking a body blow, one by one. We want to see tax cheats being made to pay what they owe. We want public contracts negotiated with the public, and not private, interests in mind. We would like to see the landed give way to programs aimed at social reform. We want environmental and other laws applied fairly and not selectively. We want an end to exceptions, exemptions, special considerations.

By we, we mean the people. The same people who have heard the President's statement and greeted it with a deafening silence.



Is the Smokey Mountain project safe?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ANOTHER big question has overtaken the already controversial Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP) in Balut, Tondo. The former garbage dump has been developed into a medium-rise housing project for scavengers by R-II Builders, a private contractor and developer, through a contract with the National Housing Authority (NHA) during the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and former Solicitor General Frank Chavez have separately denounced that contract as "illegal and unconstitutional."

The new issue is whether the former garbage dump is safe. Experts have contradictory opinions.

Dwight Ramos, vice president of IPM Trading and Development Corp., one of the country's top construction, real estate and waste management firms, said it is safe. He described the Smokey Mountain garbage as "already stabilized and certified safe filling material."

"It's not fresh garbage," he said in a recent report. "It's been there for more than 20 years."

Soil tests conducted by the University of the Philippines' environmental engineering team also reported that "the low-grade compost from Smokey Mountain is stable and safe."

However, another expert claims otherwise. Alex Victoria, engineer of Ames Construction, a company with a vast and long experience in land reclamation, said using compacted wastes as filling material for land reclamation is "not feasible."

"That is because garbage is lighter than soil. Its tendency is to float," he explained. "Compacted reclaimed area sinks in the long term as garbage shrinks or dissolves. Even nonbiodegradable waste like plastic break down over time, becoming brittle and eventually pulverizes."

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has banned the use of "plastics, glass, and other non-biodegradable materials" in reclamation. These items "should not be present in filling materials," its memo said.

For its part, the Laguna Lake Development Authority prohibited, through Resolution 23 issued in 1996, "the dumping of garbage and other waste materials on shoreland."

Toxic chemicals are found in landfill gas, among them methane, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, ammonia, sulfides, disulfides and mercaptants, and carbon monoxide.

Methane is a highly combustible gas while nitrogen, a key fertilizer ingredient, is explosive when mixed with incendiary materials. The same is true with hydrogen which is highly combustible on its own.

I interviewed R-II himself, Reghis Romero, one evening regarding his project. He said no garbage was used in the reclamation portion of the project. Only sand and mud dredged from the sea were used for the reclamation, he said.

Much of the garbage of Smokey Mountain is still there, in a huge mound near the buildings for the scavengers, Romero said. According to the original plans, they were to be burned in an incinerator, but when the Clean Air Act banned incinerators, this plan was abandoned.

The reclaimed area is safe and there is nothing to fear, he concluded.

* * *

There is a letter from Joselito S.J. Salgado of the information and community relations department of the Makati City government commenting on our column of Aug. 30 regarding the Internal Revenue Allotments (IRA) of local government units.

He denied that Makati is lending its own billions to other LGUs with interest. "The city government of Makati is not a lending institution," he said, "and does not engage in lending activities."

Comment: It is not expected that Makati will confirm this activity as it is clearly illegal, as Salgado himself admits. This information was blurted out by another Metro Manila mayor. Another mayor admitted that he once got an emergency loan from Makati which has now been paid.

Salgado also said that it is not true that there is a uniform IRA rate and that "well-developed cities like Makati get too much while poor provinces too little. While the 40 percent IRA share of LGUs is the mandate of the Local Government Code, how much IRA share an LGU is entitled to is computed based on its population and its land area. Makati, with a population of 471,379 and a land area of 27.36 sq km, receives an IRA close to P400 million."

Comment: For the information of our readers, Commission on Audit figures show that last year, Makati had the biggest income in Metro Manila at P6,638,580,000. Its IRA was P418,003. The poorest municipality in Metro Manila, Pateros, earned P76,175,000 last year. Its IRA was P40,319,000. The 20 poorest provinces in the Philippines, among them Sulu, got even less.

The whole point of the column was that the basis for the allocations of the IRA is faulty. Some LGUs that already earn enough on their own, such as Makati, get more IRA than they need, while poor LGUs that can't collect enough taxes on their own but need more development to improve themselves, don't get enough from the IRA. The column proposed that it be allocated on the basis of need.

* * *

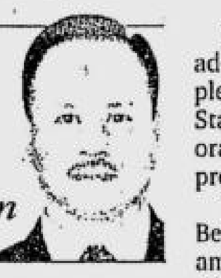
A grand reunion of the alumni of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, College of Liberal Arts, and the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Sto. Tomas will be held on Nov. 30, 2004 at the Polkabal and Pandango ballrooms of the Manila Hotel, starting at 5 p.m.

The homecoming will also mark the ruby anniversary (40th year) of the merger between the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (Philets) and College of Liberal Arts into the present Faculty of Arts and Letters (Artlets) of UST.

For inquiries, you may contact Artlets at Tel. Nos. 731-4003, 731-3101, and 406-1611, local 8220.

Taxing the Faith

PASSION FOR REASON



Raul C. Pangalangan

AS things stand, the wall of separation between Church and State is already under siege, even without the proposal to tax churches and even discounting those moments in Philippine political history when religious and secular leaders made familiar bedfellows.

The wall is beset on both sides. The Catholic Church has wonderfully expanded its mission to include social justice issues, and has called upon the faithful to step outside the temples and exercise a "preferential option for the poor." The State has reached out far beyond the traditional "night watchman functions" of policing the streets and administering the courts of justice, and has ministered to basic needs like health, shelter, and food, unlike in the past when people were left to fend for themselves in the open market. When apostolic work and welfare state programs overlap, they lead to the "excessive entanglement" banned by the Constitution, and strain the principle that the "separation of Church and State shall be inviolable."

The recent proposal to tax the churches is, to start with, severely bound by constitutional constraints. The Constitution exempts churches from real property taxes for property used "actually, directly and exclusively" for religious purposes, and the present proposals can at best touch only the income taxes derived from profit-earning activities and gift taxes for receiving donations. Neither can the proposal touch the tax exemption enjoyed by religious schools, trusted money-earners, which are exempted by the Constitution from real property and income taxes as "non-stock, non-profit educational institutions." Indeed, UP Law Prof. Victorino Mamalateo, in his book "Philippine Income Tax," points out that the mere fact that a school earns profit does not destroy its tax-exempt status, though this "protective mantle" cannot insulate schools that deviate from purely academic work and "descend from its high pedestal of tax ... immunity to the level of any ordinary [business]."

The drafting history of our Constitution, however, is most revealing. When these tax exemptions were being debated in the Constitutional Commission, it was in fact a Catholic nun who objected to exempting the church! Sr. Christine O. Tan expressed her "honest bewilderment" at why "churches owned by some religious who are very wealthy would be tax exempt. [Why would] a poor laborer pay taxes on land [while] the religious [do not?] At this period of our national recovery, I think we should all be paying because we are bankrupt."

It is difficult to match that candor, coming as it does from an activist sister of the Good Shepherd who spent her life among Leveriza's poor.

The late Sister Christine's objections were followed through by Commissioner Lino Brocka (yes, the famous director now deceased as well, who was appointed by President Cory Aquino to help draft the Charter), who objected to the tax exemption for schools on similar grounds. The Constitutional Commission exempted schools because they bore part of the burden of educating the youth, and needed support through tax exemptions which, the Commission said, would result in savings that would be passed on to students through lower tuition fees.

The tax-the-church proposal has also taken a more creative turn, as well-meaning citizens propose to donate to welfare assistance projects by religious groups. Yet our Charter's drafting history shows that its framers actually attempted to provide for such Church-State partnerships, but failed.

Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani had proposed to add a line to the clause saying that the principle of separation shall be inviolable: "The State, however, welcomes the help and collaboration of churches and religious bodies to promote the well-being of its citizens."

This proposal was opposed by Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J. who said: "I am afraid that this amendment ... is an invitation to entanglement of religion with the State.... The moment we allow this entanglement, this can be an opening for fanatics who want to reform a State to try to dictate their own will on the State."

It is best to leave well enough alone. As it was in 1986 when we were drafting our Charter, so it is in 2004 as we face the budget deficit. The constitutionally created tax exemptions for churches and religious schools pay sufficient homage to the principle of separation and to the role of schools in shaping the youth. At the same time, they leave enough room to impose legitimate public levies upon profit making which, in the biblical story, desecrated the shrines of worship. It will take a Charter change to revisit that delicate balance between Church and State.

That doesn't mean that there is little that the churches and their faithful can do to ease the fiscal crisis. In the Philippines, the Catholic Church remains the one trusted institution that can mobilize a nationwide organization with roots in the communities, and that can marshal not just our surplus wealth but our dormant enthusiasms as well. If the budget crunch will be felt most in poor communities, then let the tax-evading rich contribute through church-based organizations. That way, they can't raise the usual excuse that they don't trust government, they can impose safeguards for accountability, and, providentially, perhaps they can share not just of their money but of their time as well, and realize possibly for the first time that 'tis indeed better to give than to receive.

* * *

Comments to raul.pangalangan@up.edu.ph

Mafia code of silence

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE CONFLICT between Roberto Romulo and Max Soliven over a citizen's right of reply to scathing attacks in the press is an issue that refuses to die. It has spun a life of its own, and has now aroused interest overseas over what's the state of press freedom in the Philippines. It has ceased to be purely a parochial domestic controversy.

As such, the Philippine press, including newspaper publishers, editors and media practitioners, can no longer shovel the controversy under the carpet in a grand cover-up on the craven pretext that what one newspaper does is none of the business of another. This see-no-evil, hear-no-evil and speak-no-evil position resembles the Mafia's code of silence, a breach of which invites brutal death. The code of silence shields the Mafia from criminal action and prosecution by state law enforcement authorities fighting its illegal activities.

But there is a fundamental difference between the press and the Mafia. The Mafia is an illegal and criminal organization; the press is not. The press operates above ground and depends for its life on transparency. By looking the other way in the Romulo-Soliven controversy, the Philippine press cannot adopt the Mafia creed without inviting questions about what its role in society is.

The press cannot continue to dodge this controversy because it has put in focus a larger issue: Is the press an instrument for defending human liberties or an offensive weapon to abuse citizens whom it does not like? Basically, the deeper issue is, does freedom of the press collaterally give it the freedom to abuse its power by denying the right of reply to citizens who have been hapless victims of press attacks?

The controversy has gone beyond the realm of the concerns of the Philippine press. Recently, the Singapore Straits Times gave ample space to the side of Romulo in an interview article written by its editor, Felix Soh. The Times published the points that precisely, the Philippine Star, of which Max Soliven is the publisher and lead columnist, denied access to its pages. The irony is not lost that a newspaper in Singapore, which is not the beacon of press freedom in Southeast Asia, published Romulo's side, which a Philippine newspaper refused to carry even as Philippine society never tires telling others that it is the working model of democracy and press freedom in the region. A corollary question is this: Is freedom of the press an exclusive monopoly of members of the press?

The controversy would not have gone to the courts, if the Philippine Press Council had taken cognizance of Romulo's complaint before he was constrained to lodge the libel complaint. Invoking its consensus rule, the PPC, the self-regulatory body of the press, washed its hands of the Romulo complaint, refusing even to hear it.

The PPC was not required to take any disciplinary measure more severe than calling upon the Star to publish Romulo's replies to its sustained attacks. Under PPC rules, offending newspapers or journalists are not even required to make public apologies. The rules protect offending newspapers and journalists from humiliation. Publication of the complaints denied access in the offending newspaper is, in fact, a face-saving formula. But even this, the publishers and editors, who compose the press' component in the council, refused to do.

The PPC does not serve as laundry in which publishers and journalists wash their linen. The Star could have emerged with its face intact and without injury had the council asked it to publish Romulo's response under the principle of the right of reply.

The Romulo-Soliven row is unprecedented in one important aspect. Romulo's complaint cites a sustained barrage of 30 scathing attacks published in the Star over 13 months. The Star did not need this series of attacks to allow Soliven to argue his case with Romulo in their public feud, which, unfortunately has other dimensions than Romulo's official functions as senior foreign policy adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo. The unleashing of heavy artillery by the Star was an excessive and arrogant display of firepower to send the signal that the press, in particular the Star, has the power to destroy those who cross it.

The problem here is that the power was used not against institutions, like government or greedy business corporations, against which the press can deploy its weapons to protect the public from abuse. It was used against an individual who is not even in the center of power.

Another unique aspect of the case, and no less important, is that Soliven is the publisher of the Star and also writes a column in the same paper. As such, he has the power to hire and fire.

The Star's editor is Soliven's subordinate. Naturally, Soliven cannot sack himself. Nor can the editor discipline his publisher and make him swallow his own muck by publishing Romulo's replies.

Similar circumstance do not exist in other papers. If this conflict of interest is avoided, another imbroglio replicating the Romulo-Soliven episode might be avoided.

But this internal solution merely glosses over the fact that the major casualty of these hostilities is the press council. By dodging disciplinary action, the PPC showed that the notion of self-regulation in the press does not work. The public should have no illusions about this. The council has revealed itself to be irrelevant. This incident has proved that the press is incapable of disciplining itself against its abuses.

The danger is that the press may have opened the way for some force—such as the state, the courts or some violent groups—to curb its excesses.

Boys (and girls) behaving badly

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EXPLAINING why we should wear our scapulars wherever we went, a high school religion teacher said it would come in handy while we were dancing with boys, especially during a slow and sweet number, when the proximity of our bodies was bound to induce impure thoughts among our dancing partners. (For some reason, she didn't think we would have impure thoughts ourselves!)

Once a boy draws you close to him, our teacher explained, he would be able to feel the scapular beneath your clothes and, if he were a good Catholic boy (the only sort we were expected to dance with), he would immediately be brought back to his senses and drive away whatever lustful desires he had harbored until then.

That may be the reason I've since stopped wearing scapulars.

I don't know if young women still wear scapulars these days, or if these small pieces of cloth still have the power to cool down young men's desires, but the belief that young men's sexuality is so powerful, irresistible and irrational that it takes a girl's iron will (not to mention a discreetly placed scapular) to thwart it persists to this day. Though they are (or expected to be) the aggressors, men are usually absolved from their sexual excesses, on grounds that nature designed them to be constantly horny and that if one of them should overstep the bounds of decent behavior with a "good" woman, it could only be because she gave him cause.

It's this expectation and acceptance of social roles (men are sexual predators, women are sexual prey) that, it turns out, makes young men and women vulnerable to the risks attendant to early and perhaps unwanted sexual initiation.

* * *

ANDREA Kott, writing for the Summer 2004 issue of the Ford Foundation Report, cites the findings of Deborah Tolman in her 2002 book "Dilemmas of Desire" that "because girls feel they have little power in sexual encounters, they often allow things to happen rather than make choices." The book, which won an award from the Association for Women in Psychology, was based on interviews with 31 young American women in both urban and suburban settings, ages 15-18, and is part of a six-year study of adolescent sexual health.

Tolman found that "invariably, if unwittingly, gender stereotypes teach boys and girls how they are expected to behave and what kind of behavior to expect from one another. Behavior based on these stereotypes can, in turn, undermine their psychological and sexual development as well as their nascent attempts at romance and intimacy."

As Kott observes: "When girls are afraid to take ownership of their sexuality, much is at stake: low self-esteem, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, and violence such as date rape."

Tolman, however, felt misgivings about focusing on the girls' "empowerment" alone as the antidote to risky sexual behavior among adolescents. "If we focus only on girls being more assertive," she told Kott, "we're going to miss the big player, which is what they believe about boys."

* * *

TO THIS end, Tolman, who directs the Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality at San Francisco State University, conducted a new study, funded by the Ford Foundation, that broadened the scope of her initial investigation.

Looking into "conventional expectations of masculinity and how they affect both adolescent male and female sexuality," Tolman set out to interview an ethnically and socio-economically diverse mix of 244 young men and women in a city in the northeastern part of the United States. Fifty-two percent of the respondents were white, the rest were Latino and biracial.

Her findings, says Kott, "reveal the tension many boys feel about what it means to be a man." Twenty-five boys, ages 13-15, proved to be the main sources for Tolman's study, providing the researcher with insights into their experiences with romantic relationships and sexuality. She began interviewing the boys when they were all in the eighth grade (the equivalent of first year high school here), and then interviewed them again at two-year intervals, making it possible to track how their views and attitudes toward sexuality and romance evolved as they grew older and interacted with more girls.

Tolman reveals that she was "surprised" by the stories the boys told her. "Most said they wanted an emotionally close and honest relationship with a girl," writes Kott, while a number also expressed reservations about engaging in sex, again surprising Tolman.

* * *

"SKATER," 13, said he wanted a girlfriend who would "hang out" with him like a friend and share his interests, "...like you don't just hang around them to make out."

"Mattla," 14, confessed: "I used to like girls that would just like do stuff and everything (making out)...but now I like to have a relationship with girls."

Some boys, noted Tolman, voiced concerns about protection against disease and pregnancy. "It doesn't matter to me...whatever she wants to do as long as it's not like sex or going all the way or something like that," one boy said. And, contrary to myth, Tolman found that boys who had sexual relationships "did not approach them casually but appreciated the link between sexual and emotional intimacy."

To "J.J.," 14, for example, a French kiss (open-mouthed, with tongue action) means he and his partner are "going out...being girlfriend and boyfriend...that there was love between us two."

But what does "love" mean to a 14-year-old boy, or girl, for that matter? And why, if they are so hungry for intimacy and desirous of relationships, do so many young men behave crassly, badly and insensitively to the young women they go out with? Some answers in tomorrow's column.

Beating the heat

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST Wednesday's column brought in a lot of text messages and e-mail, but not so much in response to the sullen looks and "footshakes" of Filipinos documented from the 19th to the early 20th centuries. Asking aloud about the discoloration at the base of the spine that J. Mallat described in infants, many readers, some living as far as the United States, replied with material or website links on the so-called "Mongolian spot." Typical was Ross Mangan's e-mail which said:

"I am an Australian resident of the Philippines, married to a Filipina. Our four-year-old daughter was born in Darwin. We noticed a bruise-like formation similar to that described by Mallat and raised it at the hospital shortly after birth. The medical staff called it Mongolian Spot and said it was not an uncommon occurrence among Asians. The following is an extract from http://www.fwcc.org/mongolianspot.htm.

"Mongolian Blue Spots are flat birthmarks with wavy borders and irregular shapes, common among people of Asian, East Indian, African and Latino heritage. They may be seen in about 10 percent of Caucasians to over 90 percent of African Americans. Bluish gray to deep brown to black skin markings, they often appear on the base of the spine...etc.

"From my observation the Spots are not particularly noticeable on darker skin but much more so if the skin is white (as in the case of my daughter)."

Copies of Mallat's 1849 work on the Philippines, translated from the original French by Pura Santillan Castrence, are still available at the National Historical Institute (on T.M. Kalaw Street, Manila) which is holding a book sale next week in celebration of History Week. Mallat is a particularly pleasant read because of the details that went into his book. For example he noted that Filipinos let their right thumbnail grow, so that men could use the nail to play stringed instruments and women could use the nail for sewing.

This is not so common these days, but the late President Ferdinand Marcos had one overgrown nail in his hand. I cannot recall now if it was a thumbnail or a pinky nail (which is often used to clean one's ears!).

We cannot leave Mallat without sharing his descriptions of sleeping habits in the 19th-century Philippines. The challenge was how to sleep soundly despite the heat and humidity in those days when there were no electric fans or air-conditioning units:

"One goes to bed in a special dress for the night, similar to that of the Indians and very light. On the mat is spread a sheet for covering oneself and a blanket of Ilocos cotton which is rarely used. Cushions are not wanting for on their number depends the degree of pleasure and coolness enjoyed while sleeping; there is one for every limb, and air circulates under and along the sides. The cotton cushion, called *abrasador*, requires particular description: it is of cylindrical shape; its length from 3.5 feet by 10 inches in diameter; it is more or less hard, according to the taste of the person, covered with fine cloth, embroidered or not, to which it owes its coolness. As its name indicates, its purpose is to be embraced, and usually it is placed between the legs and arms during sleep. Between the *abrasador* and the body is left a suitable distance for the air to be able to circulate. At first sight, one would think such a cushion to be suffocating instead of refreshing; but it is the very opposite, as long as one knows how to use it. New users have as much difficulty getting used to it as those who have grown into the habit of doing without it."

In some homes, I still see an *abrasador* although it seems to have fallen into disuse probably because it is more difficult to store than ordinary pillows.

What follows next made me realize how the Rizal family slept in Calamba. You see there are only four tiny bedrooms in the reconstructed Rizal Shrine: one for the parents of the hero, one for Paciano, another for Rizal, and another that couldn't have possibly contained the nine Rizal girls! Where did they sleep? Probably in the sala as described below:

"In the evening, many families spread an immense double mat on the floor, on which everybody sleeps, each place marked by one's *abrasador* and the four to six pillows belonging to him. An immense mosquito net is attached to the four corners of the room. It is mainly by choice, although there are beds, that one prefers to sleep on the floor, because it is cooler, so extremely hot is it at night. There are moments when it is in vain for one to leave the windows open for one to be less stifled.

"The manner of arranging the pillows at each one's disposal, is to place one under each leg, one under each arm, one under the head and one under the buttocks, plus the *abrasador* already mentioned. The body leans on each of them only at a point, the rest lie on empty space, so that air circulates from everywhere around the body, and one cannot be more comfortably and softly bedded, even on the floor. During the intense heat of summer, the use of the precious *abrasador* could perhaps be adapted in France. We regret very much not being able to give in our atlas the representation of a resident of Manila lying down on his pillows."

It's easier to use a hammock than balancing on a sea of pillows. The above just illustrates that necessity is truly the mother of invention.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Beware, too, the 'ber' months

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

MANY older Filipinos have a morbid fear of the month of August, which they associate with misfortune, calamity and death. The late Nick Joaquin weaved this dread of August into his novel "Cave and Shadows," calling it "the month of amok, when tempers cracked or crazed," the collective lunacy attributed to a different kind of heat that comes with the rains. "If you feel broiled in March," Joaquin wrote, "you feel boiled in August." It is the month when torrential rains fall on the hot earth, sending out miasmas or vapors believed to cause illness, physical and mental.

Well, not just illnesses. I remembered Joaquin's novel while visiting an elderly patient recovering from a hip fracture, an injury she felt was inevitable since it was, after all, August. She and many *lolos* and *lolas* could rattle off "proof" that August was a bad, *malas*, month, recounting particular Augusts when nature unleashed its wrath in typhoons and earthquakes. Then they'd move on to man-made cataclysmic events, the most often cited examples being the Plaza Miranda bombing on Aug. 21, 1971 and on that same date 12 years later, the Ninoy Aquino assassination.

August 2004

I will admit I carry a certain dread of August, too. It doesn't help being Chinese-Filipino because August also often overlaps with the seventh Chinese lunar month, a time when hungry ghosts are believed to roam the earth looking for victims to bring back into the underworld.

I don't believe in *malas* or hungry ghosts, but culture is so powerful that each time something happens in August, my gut reaction is to go, "It's that month again." August 2004 has been particularly difficult, with a succession of typhoons—and bloodthirsty humans. It was a month of pessimism, of dire predictions about the Philippine economy collapsing.

It was also a month of international terrorism: 12 Nepali hostages executed in Iraq; the usual suicide bombings in Israel; and, to cap the month, the carnage in the schoolhouse in Beslan, Russia, perpetrated by Chechen separatists, resulting in the death of almost 400 hostages, half of them children.

It's tempting to attribute these events to the quirks of August weather. Yet, August isn't necessarily a month of miasmas in the Middle East or in Russia. August's ominous aura is a Filipino label, read into the month because of our specific meteorology.

Miasmas aside, we could shake our heads and go, "Muslim fanaticism." Now, that kind of interpretation doesn't represent too much of progress from the "bad August" mind-set. It's too simplistic, yet it's this "fanaticism" explanation which we find in most of the media reports around these terrorist attacks.

Evil in men's hearts

Let me be clear here: Terrorism is terrorism and can never be justified. Beslan was even more repulsive because children were taken hostage and slaughtered. Yet, when you think about it, the targeting of children was deliberate. In terrorism, the ultimate goal is not the killing; rather, the killing is to instill fear and dread among those left behind, and to agitate communities to wage war against each other. The terrorists knew where it would hurt most.

The evil in these terrorists' hearts comes through even more clearly in the way they chose to attack on the first day of classes. The terrorists probably knew all too well the anticipation that children, and parents, have with each new school year. With this attack on Beslan, the first day of school takes on new meanings. Never again will schools be thought of as safe havens.

Yet we know, deep down, it isn't August's miasmas or "fanaticism" that drive men and women to assassinate, to wire school gymnasiums and basketball hoops with explosives.

Beslan was a reminder of an often forgotten civil conflict in Russia. There just isn't enough space here to give all the details but it's important to remember that some 130,000 Chechen civilians have died in the last decade as Russia tries to suppress the independence movement there. Some of those terrorists in Beslan were schoolchildren, too, or parents of schoolchildren at the height of the conflict, and I have no doubts that the deaths of their own loved ones had so warped their souls.

My point is that we will continue to see more Beslans and that it will not help to explain these incidents away as the result of "fanaticism," to be quelled with more force and violence.

It doesn't help that local and global mass media continue to concentrate on the sensational sound and video bites, transforming the bloody debacle into an action flick. Only once, and it lasted about three minutes, did I catch an interview with a sharp Russian analyst, on BBC, explaining the missing pieces to the Beslan carnage: the corruption of Russian police that has allowed repeated terrorist attacks and the neglect of Chechnya, with unemployment running as high as 80 percent, providing a ready reserve of conscripts for the terrorists' ranks. There are lessons for Filipinos, too, in Chechnya.

Whose ghosts, whose miasmas?

All that said, I actually feel it might be good to retain this idea of a dangerous August, at least symbolically. It is important to remember the events of August, maybe even with its metaphors of miasmas and earthquakes, asking about the events that led to the Beslan carnage in the same way we try to understand the links between the Plaza Miranda bombing in August 1971 and Ninoy Aquino's assassination 12 Augusts later.

If we can strip August of the arcane and the occult, it might make us more discerning, too, about the "ber" months. We're relieved when September arrives, almost as if it and the succeeding "ber" months will bring an end to August's misery.

Again, I'll say it's healthy to look forward to the "ber" months, together with an anticipation of Christmas festivities and hopes for a new better year. But those hopes need to be tempered. Let's not forget that sometimes, September brings its share of grief as well. There is, after all, Sept. 21, 1972 and martial law, an act of terror, too. And then, too, there's 9/11, the third anniversary of which we remember tomorrow.

The "ber" months, or for that matter all the other months, are not without their dangers, but remembering the acts of terror should not mean making ourselves hostages to evil; forcing us to live in a state of siege or allowing ourselves to be drawn into murderous frenzies of vengeance. Taking a cue from America's Bush, Russia now talks about "preemptive" strikes against its enemies, anywhere in the world. All this should please Osama bin Laden and other terrorist leaders; it's proof that their tactics do work.

Alas, we create our own hungry ghosts and lethal miasmas.

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No need to raise taxes

I BEG to disagree with Danilo Ramos of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas when he said in his letter (PDI, 7/22/04) that Charter change is not the solution to our problems. On the contrary, we have to do the Cha-cha as soon as possible—because our present Congress is a white elephant wasting so much of our limited resources—resources that could be put to better use for more productive undertakings.

Our present Congress is composed of 260 representatives and 24 senators, each of whom gets a pork barrel (Priority Development Assistance Fund) of P65 million and P200 million respectively. To some, their cut of pork barrel can go higher, depending on how close they are to the powers that be. Congress alone appropriates itself a yearly budget of about P21 billion.

The old concept of having one district representative for every 200,000 population is no longer relevant. Experience has shown that provincial representation, irrespective of the size of population, is more appropriate and practical for us. With 79 provinces, plus about 25 party-list slots, a new parliament will only have 104 members. This is a very ideal size which can be accommodated conveniently in the existing Batasan Building. The Senate does not need to rent a portion of the GSIS Building at the rate of P100 million a year.

The adoption of the federal form of government may give the wrong impression that we are losing our resolve to keep our republic intact. It may just tempt some quarters to agitate for their complete independence.

Another argument in favor of the parliamentary or unicameral form is the absence of the expensive and wasteful national elections for president, vice president and senators. Our Comelec will no longer find the urgent need to computerize the national elections' results.

Most economically progressive countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Spain and many more, are under the parliamentary form of government. Prospective investors are likely to come from these countries. Naturally, they will be more comfortable with countries having a form of government that is the same as theirs.

If we are able to reduce the size of our present Congress and remove national elections, President Macapagal-Arroyo may no longer find the need to raise taxes to support her 10-point legacy.

—EDGARDO E. BLANCO,
2 Aguila cor. Dizon Streets,
Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

No link to Ho

REGARDING the news story headlined "Solon hits Pagcor-Stanley Ho tieup" (PDI, 9/8/04), I would like to issue the following statement.

I am not and I have never been a partner of Jack Lin (or Lin Wei Cheng) or his associate Tonya Tong. I have no business dealings and I have no connection of any kind with Lin or Tong.

With respect to Ho, I have no business dealings or any ongoing discussion or negotiation on any business project with him.

I will appreciate your giving this clarification due space in your publication. Thank you for your kind attention.

—ANDREW L. TAN,
chair and president,
Megaworld Corp., Makati City

SC on 'delayed' Sta. Rosa case

I AM writing with regard to the letters of Carmelo Aquino (PDI, 7/27/04) and Nitoy del Mundo (PDI, 8/24/04), alleging that the Supreme Court is itself guilty of delay in deciding the case of Sta. Rosa Realty Development Corp. v. Court of Appeals, et al. (GR No. 112526, 11 August 2004), which remains pending 11 years after it was filed.

It is noteworthy that the last resolution issued by the Court in connection with the above-mentioned case, required lawyer Elpidio C. Garcia, counsel for the respondents in the consolidated case of Juan B. Amante, et al. v. Court of Appeals, et al. (GR No. 118838), to "show cause why he should not be disciplinarily dealt with or held in contempt" for failure to file the memorandum required. This shows that the case has not yet been submitted for decision as the pleadings are not yet complete.

Litigation is a process that involves not just the courts but the parties and their counsels. Thus, it cannot be said that the pace of litigation is totally within a court's control. There are many factors to consider, such as the amount of time it takes the postmaster general to deliver notices to the parties, the amount of time the lawyers take to file the required pleadings in compliance with the directives of the court and whether or not the case is consolidated with other cases. In the Sta. Rosa case, the Court has to wait until the required pleadings have been filed by all of the parties to the various consolidated cases.

Nonetheless, although delay in litigation indeed exists, we would like to assure the public that this concern is being addressed by the Supreme Court's Action Program for Judicial Reform, which includes the following projects: the Case Flow Management Project currently being pilot-tested in Pasig City, the Camis (Court Administration Management Information System) Project currently being pilot-tested in the National Capital Region, and the Juris (Justice Reform Initiatives Support) Project currently being pilot-tested in San Fernando and Bacolod City.

—SOFIA GRACE L. ANGELES,
court attorney 4,
Public Information Office,
Supreme Court of the Philippines,
Padre Faura Street, Manila

The populist pitfall

THE POLITICAL events unfolding in Venezuela should serve as a wake-up call for Philippine officials who are enamored with populist policies in the mistaken notion that they are the only way to build a robust economy.

Apparently, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has indulged in massive social subsidies bankrolled by oil revenues to maintain his popularity among the masses and perpetuate himself in power.

In so doing, the leftist Venezuelan leader has created a culture of subsistence on government subsidies and doles to the consternation of the middle and upper classes of society, the business community, in particular, which believe that revenues from their country's rich oil deposits should have been used for infrastructure and other development projects.

To some extent, the political situation in Venezuela is similar to the Philippines. In the local setting, some government officials, pseudo-consumerists, left-leaning groups and—from time to time, the judiciary—have the predilection to uphold populist policies.

One classic case is: for fear of hurting and courting the anger of the poor, government and the judiciary have kept on suppressing the price of electricity, resulting in artificially low rates which, ironically, the government eventually has to shoulder anyway.

In the final analysis, this setup has been counterproductive. The result is, investors are already shying away from the local power industry. With no new generation projects on stream, another potentially devastating power crisis looms large on the horizon.

What's more, the budget deficit continues to grow worse and fears of a fiscal crisis are growing stronger.

Actually, the government can do more to improve the plight of the poor by allowing the economy to fully develop. One effective way of doing this is to foster a business climate conducive to investments. These investments, in turn, will spur economic growth.

Philippine policymakers, hopefully, should learn a lesson from the Venezuelan experience and make the right policy decisions before it becomes too late to save our country from disastrous ruin.

—MAGDALENO MALLARI,
551 Pureza St.,
Sta. Mesa, Manila

On President's China visit with family members

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo deserves the barbs. It now appears that she is the first to turn her back on her own call for austerity. Sounds familiar? People in the lower strata of our society—who hardly can afford three full meals a day—will never understand a state visit cum family vacation. Even if she paid for the trips personally, she is our President 24 hours a day. Even in her private moments, whatever she does, she is our President. But, it seems, she does not get this.

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

This goes for all government personnel. They are seen as representatives of the people. One night, on my way home from a wake—it was 15 minutes past midnight—I saw a government-issued car assigned to a councilor in Mandaluyong parked in front of a new night spot right across the municipal hall. I do not think the car (SFX 748) was there for lack of parking space in the municipal hall complex. Just like the President, the councilor does not get it, too.

I played golf in Tagaytay last weekend, and there I saw a barangay (neighborhood) vehicle from Quezon City—the SB markings clearly identified it—making the rounds with family members on board. Obviously, they do not get it, too.

To avoid confusing the public, I suppose the government vehicles should be marked clearly, "FOR OFFICIAL USE ALSO."

Ballpens, notepads, staplers, scissors, paper sheets, copying services, these and more are government property that must be used for official use only. Not for school use, not for your personal correspondence. These are small things, but they add up to a lot of money. Billions of pesos. A Mongol No. 2 pencil, a Pajero, a trip overseas, what's the difference? Get it?—**Roberto Vicencio, 709 Coronado St., Mandaluyong City, via e-mail**

* * *

It is heartening to hear that our President was able to get funding for needed projects in the Philippines. I believe that one of the most important projects is one that hopefully would link Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. This project will enable farmers to sell their products to areas that need them. I firmly believe that our prosperity lies with farmers who are in need of funding and who toil in their farms with little relief. Moreover, the government should see to it that the property rights of all people are protected.—**Eduardo T. Ibañez, 5575 Via Vallarta Yorba Linda, CA 928887, via e-mail**

* * *

In these days of austerity, the President should not have brought along her family to China—whether or not the government paid for the trip is immaterial.—**Baloy Areval, California, USA, via e-mail**

* * *

The actuations of the officials of the Arroyo administration are quite disturbing. What they say contradicts what they do. They say there is a fiscal crisis and call on us to save. But we see on television that not even the highest leader of the land heeds the call for austerity. I mean, it did not matter that her personal money was used for the travel expenses of the members of her family (including the maids'). She has been begging around for money to save the government from a fiscal crisis. What will Filipinos say?—**Ferdinand Ramirez, Cainta, Rizal, via e-mail**

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NPA owns up to slay of rival reb leader

MASS APPEAL NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

It's a scene repeated every year. Hundreds of Catholics flock to the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral to touch or even carry the image of the Divino Rostro, one of the icons during the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The New People's Army (NPA) on Panay Island has owned up to the killing on Aug. 22 of Daniel "Mokong" Batoy, Western Visayas commander of the breakaway Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB).

In an e-mailed statement, the NPA's Coronacion Chiva "Waling-Waling" Command said Batoy was "justly punished for his counter-revolutionary and anti-people criminal acts."

The NPA command said Batoy's "gravest crime" was leading a mutiny of a bulk of the NPA in Panay in 1993 against the regional command and "traitorously conniving with the (military and police) . . ."

Julian Paisano, the command's spokesperson, accused Batoy of being involved in the RPA-ABB raid on an NPA unit on May 21, 2001 in Barangay Osorio, Culasi town in Antique.

Two NPA rebels, Rowena Torrato and Manny Oderio, were killed and two others were seriously wounded in the clash, Paisano said.

Batoy, 45, and daughter Diana Jane, 16, were shot dead on Aug. 22 in Barangay Tina in Makato town in Aklan. Three armed men on a motorcycle drove alongside the motorcycle Batoy was driving and fired at them while the victims were on their way from the capital town of Kalibo to Ibajay, 40 km away.

Paisano said Batoy was also involved in other "criminal acts" including the killing of landowner Juanito Lutero of Janiuay town and the alleged kidnapping of mountaineer Leo Victor Gutierrez who disappeared in February 2003 in Culasi town, Antique.

These accusations have been repeatedly denied by the RPA-ABB.

Arturo Tabara, chair of Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPMP), hailed Batoy as a "staunch defender of the working masses."

Tabara told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview that Batoy's killers were "criminals who are anti-people and anti-peace."

"Batoy has done a great service since he joined the revolutionary movement in 1976. He made a lot of sacrifice to expand the party and the RPA-ABB," said Tabara, former chief of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in the Visayas.

He said they would not launch retaliatory attacks against the NPA. "But we cannot always stop the people from punishing the murderers," he said.

The RPA-ABB and its political wing RPMP broke away from the CPP and the NPA in 1992 over ideological differences. It signed a peace pact with the government in December 2000.

In the same statement, the NPA apologized for the death of Batoy's daughter Diana Jane and of Meliton Fortin saying their deaths were unintentional.

C. Luzon execs predict 'bad dengue year'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Floods plus a three-year strain cycle equals bad dengue year.

With this forecast, Dr. Eric Tayag, assistant regional director of the Department of Health in Central Luzon, advised residents and local governments in the region to ensure the best sanitary conditions in still flooded villages.

Tayag, airing the advisory through a local cable channel, said the new dengue strain was anticipated this year.

According to him, the three-year cycle, which began during the 2001 epidemic, had lapsed.

The new strain, called "Dengue 4" but is still borne by the mosquito *aedes aegypti*, "does not immune those previously made ill by the past three strains," he said.

The signs of a "bad" dengue year have surfaced, Tayag said.

Already, the 1,143 cases mostly monitored in Tarlac and Pampanga from January to August, have exceeded last year's cases by 10 percent.

Dengue had also claimed five lives in the two provinces, he said.

"We'd like to be several steps ahead in curbing a potential outbreak," he told the INQUIRER.

The dengue-bearing mosquito breeds in clean water that residents in still flooded villages have stocked in containers. Rainwater that accumulate just about everywhere—spouts, plant pots, tires and even pails used to store water for household needs—are easy breeding grounds of carrier mosquitoes, he said.

Poor sanitation and lack of water supply in flooded villages make residents more vulnerable to diseases, including dengue, Tayag said.

He said Dr. Ethelyn Nieto, DOH regional director, had mobilized government health workers since last week to assess which of the flooded villages have no regular garbage collection and potable sources of water.

Villages with dirty floodwaters like in San Simon, Pampanga, have also been reached, he said.

"Floodwaters (in coastal villages) are receding because of evaporation, not due to draining," Tayag said. Clean water that people store are the breeding places of dengue carriers, he said.

He said more dengue cases are going to surface after a month, the expected incubation period of the strain, in flooded areas.

In the health advisory aired on Monday, the DOH advised residents to ensure the safety of stored water either by boiling it for a maximum of two minutes or by treating it with chlorine granules. A teaspoon of the granule is good for five gallons of water, he said.

Reports received by the DOH said water distribution agencies have resumed normal operations.

Tayag said water is being rationed in houses and two evacuation centers in Paniqui, Tarlac. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

DPWH stands by cement brand ban

THE ISSUE is public safety, more than the loss of jobs.

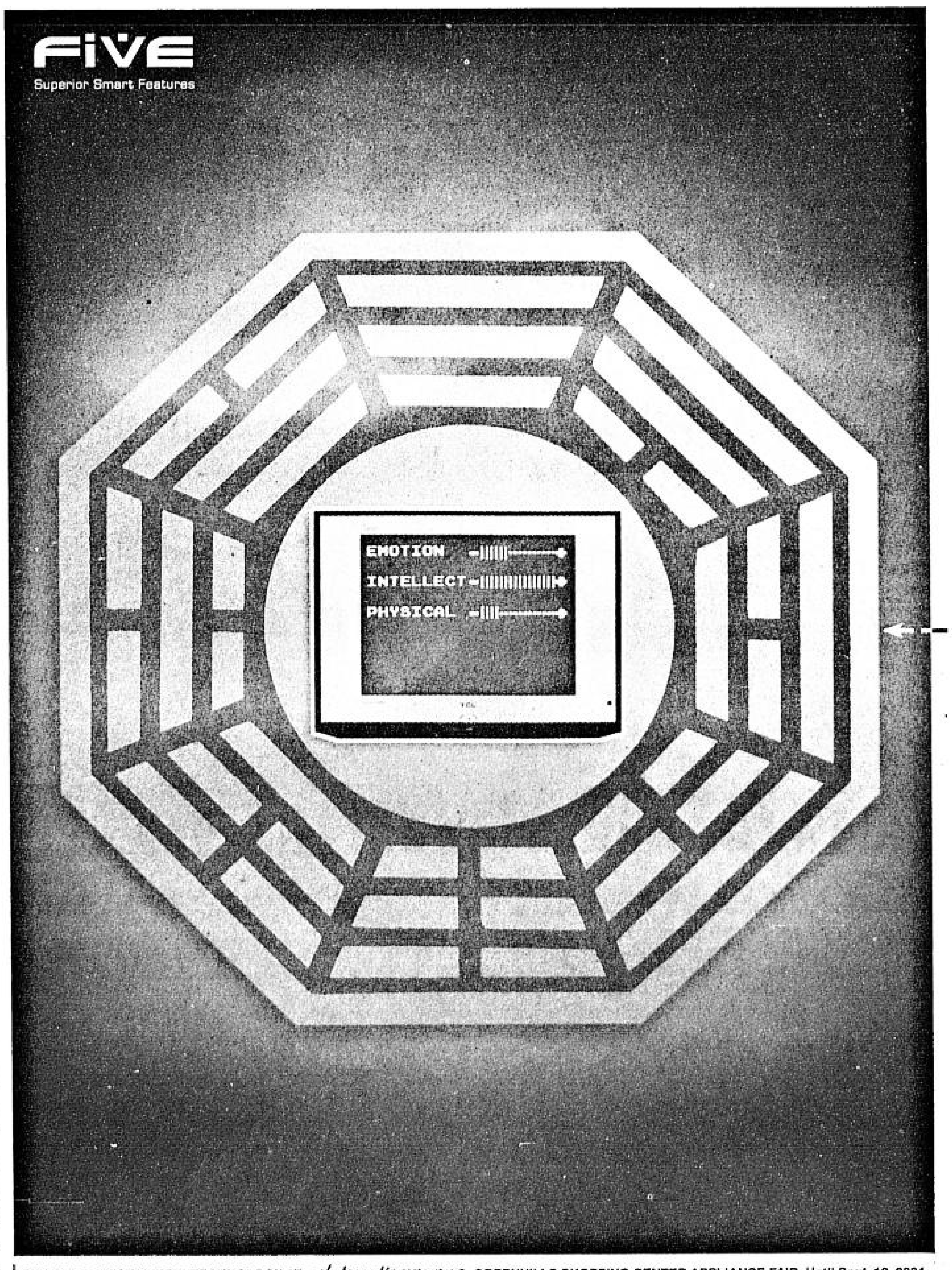
This was the reaction of a consumers group to reports that a cement manufacturer has petitioned for the lifting of the ban on its cement product.

Solid Cement Corp. (SCC), makers of Island Cement, was reported to have sought government reconsideration of a ban from the market of Island Cement, claiming that the ban will lead to a stop in the production of the cement and the loss of hundreds of jobs.

Island Cement was banned from the market by the Department of Trade and Industry after reports by the Department of Public Works and Highways showed that the cement has more often than not failed in quality tests.

The DPWH always subjects materials to be used in infrastructure projects to quality tests and disallows use of materials that fail. Reports from the DPWH Bureau of Research and Standards showed that since 1991, Island Cement has almost always failed the tests.

SCC questioned the DPWH findings, alleging that the industry has better testing facilities that show Island Cement to be "superior" in quality.



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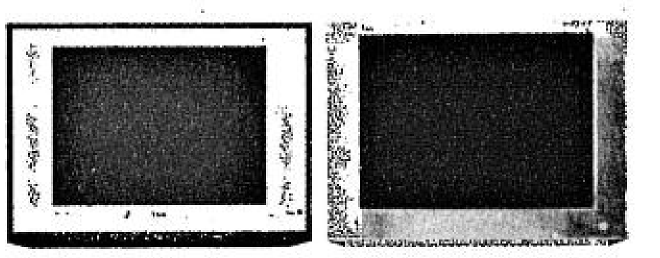

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DAR inept, corrupt, farmers say during rally

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—More than 100 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) picketed Wednesday the premises of the provincial office of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) here to dramatize their frustration at the continued delay of their installation on the lands that were awarded to them.

The group, belonging to the Alyansa Negros Alang sa Tinuoray nga Repormang Agraryo (Negros Alliance for Genuine Agrarian Reform), carried placards and streamers condemning DAR provincial officials for allegedly taking sides with landowners and for alleged negligence, ineptness and corruption.

Efren Candia, Alyansa chair, said some 206 ARBs of the 600-hectare sugar and corn estate Trinidad Valley in Vallahermoso town, 145 km north of here and owned by the Ledesmas, were issued Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) in 1998 but not a single ARB was installed on the land despite previous promises made by the provincial officials of DAR.

Deodarwin Dacula, spokesperson of the Bayawan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative, said he and other 13 ARBs of a 41-hectare rice and sugar land in Barangay Nangka, Bayawan City, 102 km south of here, were issued CLOAs in 1995 but they were never installed on the land.

Other concerns

The protesters also raised other issues such as over valuation of land, ejection and harassment.

Datu Yusof Mama, DAR regional director for Central Visayas, admitted in a press conference here Wednesday the delay in the installation of many ARBs but said the main obstacle was the strong resistance of landowners who employed security personnel to guard their properties.

"We cannot afford to endanger the lives of the ARBs and personnel of DAR. We need the support of the police and the army to install the beneficiaries as what happened in other hotly contested areas where the ARBs were installed," Mama said.

No escorts

He also raised the difficulty in getting police or army escorts in some areas, especially when political or influential families own the contested properties. "That is why we need the support of the media to help get the support of the police and the army," he said.

Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (Paro) Stephen Leonidas said in some instances, conflict among potential ARBs as to who should qualify as beneficiaries contributed to the delay in the installation.

Mama, in a dialogue with the protesters, asked for their understanding and cooperation and for more time to allow the DAR to solve their problems.

Mama also said on the allegations of corruption, it should be lodged before the Ombudsman.

Achilles Boloc-boloc, of the Negros Federation of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization, a member of the Alyansa, said the ARBs would give the DAR two months to address their concern.

"We will be coming back here, with other forms of protest if the provincial DAR office makes no progress in addressing our concerns," Boloc-boloc said.

800 PERCENT INCREASE

Bacolod lawyers seek action on legal fees

BACOLOD CITY—Some concerned lawyers of Bacolod are calling on the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Negros Occidental Chapter to convene the IBP and make a stand on the recent increases in legal fees.

Twenty-four lawyers wrote a letter to Gilfredo Geolingo, IBP-Negros president, saying they agreed with other lawyers in the country who urged the Supreme Court, through the IBP, to suspend and review the newly mandated increase in legal fees.

"This imposition of the newly mandated legal fees is drastic and inconsistent with the prevailing economic conditions of our country and will certainly bring adverse effects to the rights of litigants, especially among the marginal ones in their pursuit of justice," they said in the letter.

The new schedule of fees, among others, raised to P2,000 the marriage license fee that used to cost P300 only.

The fee for appeal for remedies rose from P500 to P3,500; naturalization of citizenship, from P2,000 to P10,000; and annulment or legal separation, from P200 to P3,000.

The lawyers said some couples might opt to continue "living in sin" because marriage has become expensive following the increase in marriage license fee.

"Has the government become a private enterprise by increasing the fees from 200 percent to 800 percent or more?" they asked.

They added there are continuing increases of judicial fees until November 2006 "notwithstanding the fact that we have not even fully understood the political and economic repercussions of the increased `cost' of justice."

The lawyers said the law is not a trade or a craft but a profession, with the basic ideal of rendering public service and securing justice for those who seek its aid.

"This obligation is not an easy task, and its performance is made difficult by the ever-growing pressure of commercialism in all fields of human endeavor," the lawyers said.

The IBP in Cebu City earlier passed a resolution urging the Supreme Court to review and reconsider its new ruling on the imposition of the new rate of legal fees under Rule 141 of the Rules of Court.

Last Aug. 30, at least 200 lawyers in Cebu City staged a mass action in front of the Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan Hall of Justice to express their opposition to the increase in legal fees.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. earlier said the Supreme Court *en banc* would review the new rates in legal fees after being furnished the IBP resolution.

He, however, denied that the new rates were "onerous" as the High Tribunal studied the matter thoroughly before making a ruling. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

LEFTOVERS HUNTER

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

An unidentified scavenger searches through piles of trash on Session Road in Baguio City for whatever leftover food she could salvage as a delivery man pushes near her trays of freshly baked bread.

Exec says SSS needs contribution hike to survive

DAVAO CITY—An official of the Social Security System (SSS) defended the need to increase the amount of members' contribution because the current amount is not enough to sustain the agency's operations.

An independent study commissioned by the SSS recommended an increase of 22 percent in members' contributions to bridge the gap between collection and disbursements.

Eddie Jara, head of SSS Visayas and Mindanao operations, said the increase will be stretched over a six-year period.

He said the current financial liquidity of the SSS will not be sustained especially with the rising number of their members who are retiring.

"The population is slowly aging, many people are retiring while the number of new contributions is slow," he said.

Sen. Manuel Villar earlier sought an investigation of the liquidity of the pension fund following the proposed increase in contributions.

Villar said employers will be the hardest hit in the proposed increase in contributions from 16 to 22 percent.

An actual valuation of the SSS in the year 2000 has placed the life span of SSS to the year 2040 but a study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) paints a bleaker scenario.

"If there will be no administrative reforms, the funds of the SSS will be exhausted by 2015," he said.

He said the one percent increase in contributions from 8.5 percent to 9.5 percent of the basic salary has effectively extended the life span of the SSS to another six years.

He said that SSS has the lowest amount of contributions compared to social security agencies of other countries. Singapore collects about 30 percent while Malaysia and China, 23 percent. *Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Navarrete runs amuck with fists after wife leaves him

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Alone and dejected, the Bad Boy of Philippine boxing went amok on Wednesday, driving several persons renting spaces in his house to scamper for safety.

Former World Boxing Council junior lightweight champ Rolando Navarrete punched and kicked the walls and everything he saw inside his house, prompting the occupants to run outside and seek police assistance.

In an interview with Navarrete, he said he was just depressed due to the departure of his live-in partner Elizabeth Tambon.

Tambon abandoned the former boxing champ on Monday after being battered due to altercations over trivial matters.

The woman, who tried to endure Lando's erratic behavior for about a year, went to her hometown in Tampakan, South Cotabato to start a new life.

Navarette said he loves Elizabeth so much and wanted her back. The woman, however, vowed not to live with him again.

She claimed that the former ring idol is not just a wife-beater but also a very jealous lover.

For more than a year, Elizabeth, said she tried to endure Navarrete's tantrums that sent her several times to the hospital.

But after the latest violence she suffered in the hands of the former boxer, Elizabeth said it was all over and that she was starting a new life.

"After all, I'm still young. I could still find someone who would love and treat me fairly as a person," she said.

But it was not only Elizabeth who left Navarette behind. His house renters had asked police escorts to claim their personal belongings from Navarrete's residence in Llido Subdivision here. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Union-busting takes new form in criminal charges

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—For allegedly stealing a bathroom deodorizer worth P29, a worker at the Bataan Export Zone was dismissed from his job and arrested on Tuesday at the National Labor Relations Commission here.

The case of Reynante Dumapias, 29, spelled a new tack in preventing workers from organizing and forming unions, according to Benjie Delgado, president of the Qualitek Delta Labor Association.

"Aside from falsely accusing us . . . the company also filed criminal cases against us. They are 'criminalizing' our union," Delgado told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

He said the company countered labor cases with criminal charges. He said Qualitek workers began organizing in February to initially demand a resumption in the supply of laundry soaps. The soaps are used to wash off lead from their overalls. The company, owned by a Thai-American, manufactures soldering materials and chemicals.

Dumapias had been employed as a technician in the firm for five years, earning P275 for a day's work. Like less than 50 workers, Dumapias said he joined the union when the wages stopped increasing and benefits were withheld beginning 2000.

He denied the charges, saying he bought the deodorizer for his newly rented room in Mariveles, Bataan, just outside the BEZ, the forerunner of economic zones in Asia.

On Tuesday, as he, his fellow union members and an NLRC arbiter were discussing a case for "massive illegal dismissal, union busting and illegal lockout," a certain PO2 Leonardo Sanggalang came and served the arrest warrant on Dumapias.

The policeman, assigned at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, was in civilian clothes.

Delgado said he saw Sanggalang usher Dumapias to a car reportedly owned and used by the company. Dumapias was held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Camp Tolentino in Balanga City and at the Mariveles jail.

Dumapias posted a P1,000 bail from donations of BEZ workers, Delgado said.

Five union leaders, including Delgado, were charged with qualified theft that they denied doing.

The rest of the union members have been put on forced leave without pay and retrenched last August.

"We see these as part of efforts of the company to undermine our legitimate demands," he said.

Sought for comment, the company referred the matter to its lawyer, Dionisio Tejero. A company secretary said Tejero was not in the office.

Qualitek did not give the contact numbers to Eduardo Amado, the general manager.

Asked if its filing criminal cases against protesting union leaders and members has become a trend among companies in Central Luzon, Labor Regional Director Josefino Torres said: "We see that occurring every now and then." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Pastors wield influence in Baguio City gov't affairs

BAGUIO CITY—Pastors of religious denominations identified with the Christian political party Bangon Pilipinas, are being eased out of the city government after critics accused them of influencing local policy, the INQUIRER was told on Tuesday.

The pastors are volunteer workers of Mayor Braulio Yaranon, who ran a populist campaign in May that attacked corruption and the entry of a casino at Camp John Hay.

The city council is investigating reports that Voltaire Acosta, one of Yaranon's associates and an official of the Council for the Restoration of Filipino Values (CRFV), had confronted a city employee of the local treasury office over a citizen's complaint.

The CRFV is one of five volunteer groups who were accredited to conduct anti-corruption trainings nationwide by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Dictates

Complaints have also emerged from division chiefs and employees about instances when Yaranon's volunteers dictated how critical operational matters will proceed under the new administration. A councilor blamed the pastors for efforts to stop the staging of the annual Miss Baguio beauty pageant this month.

A month after Yaranon assumed office, division heads already protested that they were being forced into attending prayer rallies that they claimed were made to appear as values formation seminars.

"We wanted to tell them that there is separation of church and state in this city. We had the freedom to choose our religion. We should not be forced to listen to their preaching," a city official said Wednesday.

Rabindranath Quilala, secretary to the mayor, said most of these complaints were "products of miscommunication."

But Quilala acknowledged that Yaranon's political enemies are exploiting these complaints.

"These are very calculated moves to remove the pastors from office," he said.

Quilala said the first "casualty" was lawyer Alex Bangsoy, Bangon Pilipinas coordinator for Baguio during Villanueva's campaign.

Yaranon appointed Bangsoy twice as city legal officer, but councilors identified with the mayor's predecessor, Bernardo Vergara, refused to endorse him, Quilala said.

"Romans:13"

He said his own appointment had been criticized by some councilors because he led a public street campaign to oust a pay parking firm, whose operations were legitimized by the previous council through an ordinance.

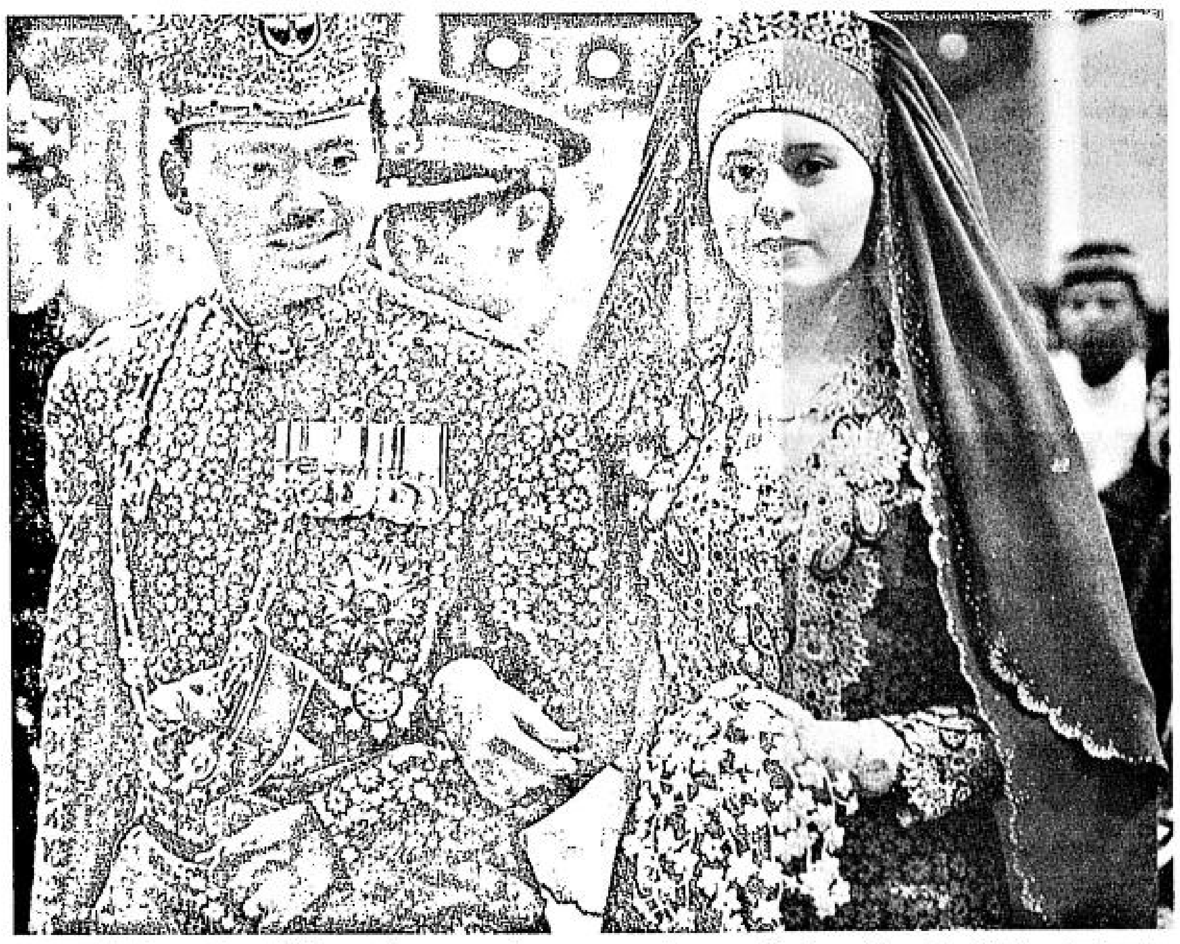
Quilala and Acosta are founding members of "Romans:13," a group of pastors that criticized Bangon Pilipinas standard bearer Eduardo Villanueva for not conceding to President Macapagal-Arroyo after the elections.

Quilala said Yaranon reconciled his group and Villanueva's supporters when the mayor assumed office.

The INQUIRER source in the city government said the pastors were influencing all of Yaranon's official transactions. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rains soak royal couple in 'wedding of the year'

From page A1



CLUTCHING a gold-and-diamond bouquet, the teenage princess walks down the aisle with her husband after the nuptials. They wore matching suits embroidered with gold thread. REUTERS

and fabulously wealthy ruler of 350,000 subjects—wed Sarah Salleh before 2,000 people in a traditional Malay Muslim ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman, the 1,788-room main palace.

Some observers likewise dubbed the event the continent's grandest nuptials since 1993, when Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito married Masako Owada, also a commoner.

The groom, educated at Oxford as is customary with royal family members in this former British colony, will be the 30th sultan in a line stretching back 600 years.

Gold-and-diamond bouquet

Brunei's opulent traditions were on full display at the riverside palace's peak-ceilinged throne chamber—bigger than a football field, lit by massive chandeliers and adorned in gold and yellow, the sultanate's royal colors.

Sultan Hassanal escorted the prince—who wore an embroidered blue suit, a gold crown and a kris dagger tucked into his sash—to two golden thrones on the dais. The bride emerged from a stateroom, more than an hour behind schedule, and joined her groom.

The prince placed a hand on Sarah's diamond tiara as Muslim marriage prayers were recited. She was radiant in an embroidered blue dress and veil that matched his suit, and clasped a gold-and-diamond bouquet. After the centuries-old ceremony that took under 15 minutes, the couple descended the dais and kissed the sultan's hand in asking for his blessing.

Before the start of the nuptials, a 21-gun salute sounded as Japan's Naruhito, Bahrain's King Hamad, the Duke of Gloucester Prince Richard and Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia arrived and took their seats in gold-trimmed chairs.

Other guests included Presidents Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines and Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia, and Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia.

Singapore, which has close historic links with Brunei, sent a power-packed delegation—new Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and former Prime Ministers Goh Chok Tong and Lee Kuan Yew.

The bride's father is a manager at the public works department. Her mother, the former Suzanne Aeby from a village outside Zurich, came to Brunei in the 1970s as a nurse and worked at the health ministry. She wore a blue veil and traditional Malay dress at the wedding.

Tab under wraps

The wedding tab, like all of Brunei's tightly held finances, has not been disclosed.

An extravagant wedding banquet will be held this evening. This will be followed by a fireworks display, the first in a series scheduled for three nights, winding up two weeks of festivities.

The Brunei ruling family's extravagance is legendary. The sultan was the world's richest man before the advent of the high-tech era when self-made billionaires arose, and before a series of financial blunders blamed on his younger brother, Prince Jefri, in the 1990s cost the kingdom an estimated US$7 billion in losses.

Jefri, now living in Europe, was not present at the ceremony. It was unclear whether he was invited. *AP, AFP*

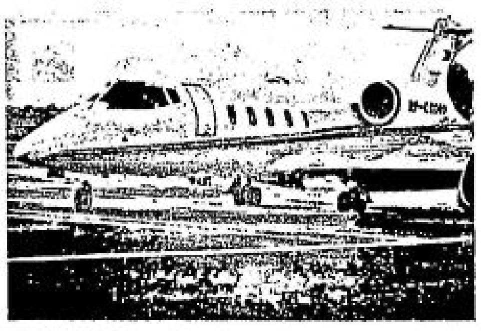
Dignitaries and royals invited by Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah include President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri. AP

GMA takes Lear jet but it was not Bolkiah's

From page A1

Roger Margallo, INQUIRER photographer at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, said the aircraft was owned by businessman Jose "Pepito" Alvarez.

"Available on a rental basis," according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the jet was said to be the same one that Ms Arroyo used for out-of-town trips, including her campaign sorties in May.



THE LEAR jet 60, piloted by Capt. J.R. Julla with President Macapagal-Arroyo and party on board, takes off for Brunei on Thursday. ROGER MARGALLO

The President took off aboard the seven-seater RP-C6003 at 6:45 a.m. from Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. She was accompanied by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Presidential Security Group chief Col. Delfin Bangit and her aide de camp.

A Fokker 28 plane carrying Ms Arroyo's staff had taken off minutes earlier.

"This is a private jet. There was no Lear jet from the Sultan," Bangit clarified.

Ms Arroyo, dressed in a simple blue pantsuit, shook hands with the ambassador of Brunei and a handful of officials present at the planeside sendoff. She spent a few minutes talking to Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. Only the two, plus Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya were the ranking officials present.

Arriving at the Brunei International Airport at 8:50 a.m., Ms Arroyo had under two hours to freshen up and change for the 10:30 a.m. *bersanding*, or royal wedding, of Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah Bolkiah and commoner Sarah Sellah at the main palace.

The First Couple will also attend the royal wedding banquet tonight, and will be back in Manila just after midnight.

Ermita told reporters this was one social invitation that the President could not afford to ignore despite her repeated calls for austerity measures, especially in government.

"What is happening in our country cannot be used as a controlling factor for events in other countries. This is their wedding. Are we going to tell them to postpone the wedding because we have austerity measures?" Ermita said.

Er ... of course not.

Ermita continued: "It's easy to criticize but these trips are necessary. This is to attend the wedding of the crown prince of Brunei. This is very important because the heads of state of Asean are there. They are all sponsors."

Ms Arroyo was "not an ordinary guest," he said.

"I think she is one of the sponsors. I recall during the time of President Ramos [when another son of the sultan was wed], all the heads of state were sponsors," Ermita said. "You might consider this an official function. This trip is necessary [in] performing her function as head of state."

Did this mean the government was shouldering the expenses for the trip?

His answer was indirect. "If you are invited to a wedding, are you going to ask your host to lend you his car so you can go to his wedding?"

It could not be ascertained either if the President had paid to stay at the palatial Empire Hotel, where the other heads of state and royal guests were booked.

Colonel Bangit would not say exactly how big Ms Arroyo's entourage was, except to point out that the Lear jet could seat no more than seven passengers, and the Fokker no more than 17.

Ermita reiterated that the President was also set to meet with the head of the 10-member Brunei delegation to an international team monitoring the peace talks between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

He didn't call it an official dialogue, though. "It's just like [any] wedding, where you get to talk to a lot of people," he said.

Meanwhile, Ermita said, Ms Arroyo again designated Vice President Noli de Castro as government caretaker, to "act for and in her behalf" during her absence.

But there were no "delicate matters" at hand that could not wait for Ms Arroyo's return, he noted.

"As usual, I will run the office, take care of administrative matters and prepare documents to be signed. The important ones I already asked her to sign yesterday," Ermita said.

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25 of 236 solons willing to abolish pork barrel

From page A1

In a letter to Speaker Jose de Venecia dated Sept. 7, the congressmen led by Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino (LDP, 2nd dist., Makati) stressed the need to heed the public clamor for Congress to sacrifice the pork barrel, officially called the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), "to reduce the budget and effectively reduce the budget deficit."

"It has been only a day since I drafted the letter, and 24 congressmen have already expressed support by signing it," Aquino wrote.

"This only indicates a latent interest even among members of the House of Representatives to do away with the so-called pork barrel funds."

For still unclear reasons, Rep. Antonio Diaz (Lakas, 2nd dist., Zambales) yesterday tendered his resignation from the House to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles said under the circumstances, the House had "no choice but to accept."

Aquino, who has been pushing for the abolition of the graft-ridden pork barrel since 1988 during his first term as a senator in the 8th Congress, said he wanted Congress to focus on legislation and the executive department to pursue and implement vital projects nationwide.

"But improvements have to be made in project identification and implementation, side by side with the pork barrel abolition," he said.

Aquino also said the executive department had to start implementing a line item budgeting system for major departments so that each town, city and province would know exactly how much and what projects would go to their respective jurisdictions.

"There has to be transparency in how government resources are allocated across the archipelago," he said, adding that if this were done, a large chunk of the national budget lost to corruption would be saved.

Political scions

The 24 other signatories, a number of them scions of political families, were Representatives Benjamin Abalos Jr. (Lakas, Mandaluyong), Juan Edgardo Angara (LDP, Aurora), Robert "Ace" Barbers (Lakas, 2nd dist., Surigao del Norte), Salacnib Baterina (Lakas, 2nd dist., Ilocos Sur), Danton Bueser (LP, 3rd dist., Laguna), Jose Emmanuel Carlos (Lakas, 1st dist., Valenzuela);

Simeon Datumanong (Lakas, 2nd dist., Maguindanao), Arthur Defensor (Lakas, 3rd dist., Iloilo), Del de Guzman (Lakas, Marikina), Raul del Mar (Lakas, 1st dist., Cebu City), Teofisto Guingona III (LDP, 2nd dist., Bukidnon), Robert "Dodot" Jaworski Jr. (Lakas, Pasig City), Hermilando Mandanas (LP, 2nd dist., Batangas);

Prospero Nograles (Lakas, 1st dist., Davao City), Jacinto Paras, LDP, 1st dist., Negros Oriental), Juan Ponce Enrile Jr. (NPC, 1st dist., Cagayan), Gilbert Remulla (NP, 2nd dist., Cavite), Isidro Rodriguez (NPC, 2nd dist., Rizal), Federico Sandoval II (LP, Malabon-Navotas).

Rolex Suplico (LDP, 5th dist., Iloilo province), Lorenzo Tañada III (LP, 4th dist., Quezon), Luis Villafuerte, (Kampi, 2nd dist., Camarines Sur), Ronaldo Zamora (PMP, San Juan) and Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, 3rd dist., Bukidnon).

Not even 'pork holiday'

But Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, 1st dist., Camarines Sur) had a different perspective.

He was opposed to even the proposed yearlong "pork holiday," saying this would result in a virtual stoppage of public works construction in the countryside.

"If you ask people if they would like congressmen to give up their pork, many would say yes. But if you rephrase the question and ask them if they would like the government to stop building classrooms, roads and hospitals for a year, everybody would say no," he said in a statement.

Andaya said taking from Congress the power to appropriate funds for development projects would reduce it to a "rubber stamp" of the budget proponent, Malacañang.

"The power to appropriate carries with it the inherent power to identify spending areas. Take that away and you will have a legislature of eunuchs," he said.

According to Andaya, another cause for worry if the PDAF was stricken off the appropriations bill is that it would bring down infrastructure spending to dangerous levels.

Andaya pointed out that the Philippines was already the lowest infrastructure spender in the region.

"We cannot have a projects holiday without crippling our economy and jeopardizing our need to develop our productive capacity," he said.

According to Andaya, those who want to do away with the PDAF as a way of taming the deficit were missing the real culprits—"the lumbering dinosaurs ... the government-owned and controlled corporations, which continue to munch on precious public resources."

He said that of the P2-trillion rise in the national debt from 1997 to 2003, P748.65 billion was due to "non-budgetary accounts and assumed liabilities and lending to corporations," meaning mostly the GOCCs' unpaid obligations that had fallen on the government's lap.

"If we add this amount to other contingent debts, then we can safely say that a century of pork, a hundred years of the PDAF, is equivalent to what GOCCs squandered in less than a decade," he said.

To buy vaccines

Sen. Pia Cayetano said she wants to give half of her pork barrel to the Department of Health for the purchase of hepatitis B vaccines.

She said this was a better alternative to giving up the whole amount for the Bayanihan Fund.

Experts estimate that about eight million Filipinos have the hepatitis B virus (HBV), which damages the liver and eventually causes cirrhosis or liver cancer if not immediately treated or managed.

Of the eight million infected Filipinos, around two million will die of liver failure, according to studies by the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology. Only 15 percent of Filipinos with HBV are aware that they have been infected.

Cayetano, whose father, the late Sen. Rene Cayetano, died of liver cancer complications last year, said she wanted to make sure Filipinos would be protected against the ailment.

"I know what it's like, and I know that ordinary Filipinos would not be able to afford the treatment for a liver ailment. It really robs you of whatever savings you have, and so many Filipinos do not even have the money to buy their food every day," she said at a forum on liver cancer.

A liver transplant usually costs around P3 million in the Philippines. Treatment is more expensive abroad, reaching up to $16,000 a week for severe cases.

Cayetano had originally planned to give P20 million of her PDAF to set up a liver center at the Philippine General Hospital. But she found that this would not be enough to buy all the facilities for treatment, including transplants.

"I wanted to give [the funds] to build the center but it would be useless unless the system is complete, so I just want to concentrate on the prevention, how we can protect newborn children from HBV, and that's through vaccination," she said. *With a report from Blanche S. Rivera*

KERRY AFP

BUSH AFP

Philippines rooting for Bush but 30 countries go for Kerry

From page A1

The only countries where Bush was preferred in the poll covering a total of 34,330 people and conducted in July and August were the Philippines, Nigeria and Poland.

Bush's greatest support came from the Philippines, where 57 percent of those surveyed favored him compared with 32 percent for Kerry, despite a recent row over Manila's decision to pull out its troops from Iraq prematurely.

Survey organizers attributed the support to Bush's post 9/11 training aid to the Philippine military which is battling the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf terror group in the country's troubled South. This "may have engendered significant goodwill," the organizers said.

Two-to-one margin

The margin of error in the survey, which covered all regions of the world, ranged from plus or minus 2.3 to 5 percentage points.

On average, Senator Kerry was favored by more than a two-to-one margin—46 percent to 20 percent, the survey by GlobeScan Inc., a global research firm, and the University of Maryland, showed.

"Only one in five wants to see Bush reelected," said Steven Kull, the university's program on international policy attitudes. "Though he is not as well known, Kerry would win handily if the people of the world were to elect the US president."

Kerry was strongly preferred among all of America's traditional allies, including Norway (74 percent compared with Bush's 7 percent), Germany (74 percent to 10 percent), France (64 percent to 5 percent), the Netherlands (63 percent to 6 percent), Italy (58 percent to 14 percent) and Spain (45 percent to 7 percent).

Even in Britain, where Prime Minister Tony Blair is Bush's closest ally in the war on terror, Kerry trounced the incumbent 47 percent to 16 percent.

Kerry was also greatly favored among Canadians by 61 percent to Bush's 16 percent and among the Japanese by 43 percent to 23 percent.

Even among countries that have contributed troops to Iraq, most favored Kerry, and said that their view of US foreign policy had gotten worse under Bush.

They included Britain, the Czech Republic, Italy, the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Japan, Norway and Spain.

Wrong track

Asked how President Bush's foreign policy had affected their feelings toward the United States, a majority of those polled in 31 countries said it made them feel "worse" about America, while those in only three countries said it had made them feel "better."

"Perhaps most sobering for Americans is the strength of the view that US foreign policy is on the wrong track, even in countries contributing troops in Iraq," said GlobeScan President Doug Miller.

In Europe, the exception for Bush was a new ally, Poland, where he was preferred by a narrow majority of 31 percent against Kerry's 26 percent.

Another new European ally, the Czech Republic, went for Kerry (42 percent to Bush's 18 percent) as did Sweden (58 percent to 10 percent).

Asia was the most mixed region, though Kerry still did better. Aside from enjoying a large margin in Japan, he was preferred by clear majorities in China (52 percent to Bush's 12 percent) and Indonesia (57 percent to 34 percent).

But those polled were divided in India (Kerry, 34 percent; Bush, 33 percent) and Thailand (Kerry, 30 percent; Bush, 33 percent).

Latin Americans went for Kerry in all nine countries polled. In only two cases did Kerry win by a large majority—Brazil (57 percent to 14 percent) and the Dominican Republic (51 percent to 38 percent)—but in most cases the spread was quite wide. *AFP*

Republican gays not happy with Bush

WASHINGTON—A key group of gay Republicans said Wednesday it had withdrawn support from US President George W. Bush in November's election and vowed instead to work to defeat the party's "radical right."

The Log Cabin Republicans, the party's largest gay and lesbian bloc, which backed Bush's 2000 election, said it was withholding its endorsement this year, accusing Bush of allowing anti-gay right-wingers of "hijacking" the party and marginalizing gay members.

"Log Cabin's National Board has voted to withhold a presidential endorsement and shift our financial and political resources to defeating the radical right and supporting inclusive Republican candidates for the US Senate and House of Representatives," group chair William Brownson said.

The group's board of directors voted 22 to 2 on Tuesday not to endorse the reelection of Bush, who they accuse of selling out his "compassionate conservative" stance to capture the Christian right vote.

The vote marked the first time since the group was founded in 1993 that it has refused to endorse the Republican nominee for US president.

"Certain moments in history require that a belief in fairness and equality not be sacrificed in the name of partisan politics; this is one of those moments," Log Cabin's Executive Director Patrick Guerriero said.

"There is a battle for the heart and soul of the Republican Party, and that fight is bigger than one platform, one convention, or even one president," he added. *AFP*

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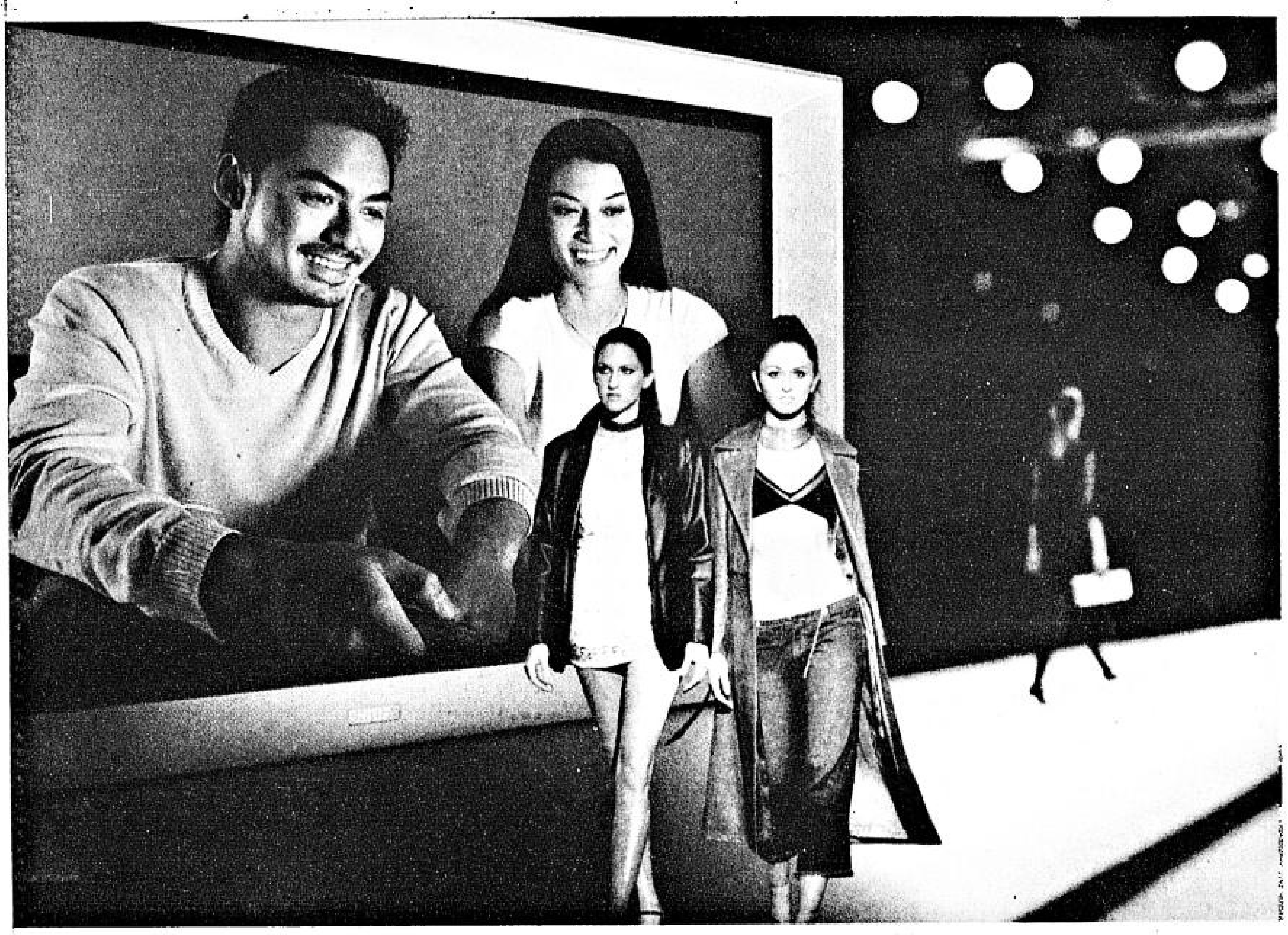

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Draw date is on 12/14/04. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1509 Series of 2004. Php 2.50 per SMS".** Consumers can send their Official Receipt number only once. If they try to send the same Official Receipt number twice they will receive this message: **"Sorry the receipt number you entered has already been used, please check your receipt number and try again" P2.50 per SMS.** If the consumers send a wrong keyword, they will receive this message: **"The keyword you have entered is not recognized by the system. P2.50 per SMS".** If the consumer sends an incomplete SMS, they will receive this message: **"The filename you've entered is not recognized by the system. Please check your filename and try again. P2.50 per SMS"** Error messages will be charged P2.50 per SMS. **6.** The raffle draw will be held at the Philips office, 48/F PB Com Tower, Ayala corner Herrera streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City. This will be made in the presence of a DTI representative. **7.** A winner can only win once. If a participant's name is drawn more than once, the prize with the higher monetary value shall be awarded. **8.** Winners shall be notified via cell phone and registered mail. The list of winners shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within two weeks from the date of the draw. For prizes that exceed Php10,000.00, the 20% Prize Tax shall be shouldered by the winner **9.** Prizes shall be claimed upon presentation of the following: Any valid ID containing picture and address (company ID, Driver's license, Voter's ID, SSS), Proof of purchase: Sales Invoice and/or Official Receipt, notification letter from Philips, SMS containing the notification "In case the consumer's phone is lost, he/she must present an Affidavit of Loss and/or Police Report in lieu of requirements 4. **10.** Redemption of prizes shall be at the Philips office, 48/F, PB Com Tower, Ayala corner Herrera streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City from 9:00am - 5:00pm (Monday to Friday) **11.** Consolation prizes may be redeemed from the nearest authorized Philips office, namely in Cebu and Davao. **12.** All prizes are transferable but non-convertible to cash. **13.** All expenses related to the movement from the redemption area will be the responsibility of the winners. **14.** Travel packages, which include roundtrip airfare (economy class), hotel accommodations (four star) and a day tour for 4 days and 3 nights are valid for 6 months only from date of prize issue. **15.** Securing of travel documents and other related travel expenses such as but not limited to travel tax, shall be shouldered by the winner. **16.** Prizes not claimed within 60 days from date of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Philips Consumer Electronics with prior approval of the DTI. **17.** All employees of Philips Consumer Electronics and its affiliates, their respective advertising agency, promo agency, PR agency, their dealers, content providers (WolfPack and Pinoy Central), participating telecommunications company (Smart, Talk N' Text, Globe and Sun), their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion. **18.** Philips Consumer Electronics reserves the right to verify if winning entries are from eligible buyers of Philips Consumer Electronics products.

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Automatic Center, Glorietta 3	Oct. 1 - Oct. 14	Ground Floor, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center
SM Cebu	Sept. 1 - Sept. 12	SM Appliance Fiesta (Exhibit) SM Cebu Branch
Western-Sta. Lucia Exhibit	Sept. 8 - Sept. 30	Sta. Lucia Grand East Mall, Cainta, Rizal
SM Southmall	Sept. 29 - Oct. 10	SM Appliance Fiesta (Exhibit) SM Las Piñas
Metrobank X-Mas Bazaar	Nov. 11 - Nov. 14	Christmas Sale of Metrobank at the Pavilion in Roxas Boulevard near Toyota Manila Bay
SM Citibank Appliance Fiesta	Oct. 16 - Nov. 7	Citibank Part III at the Megatrade Hall, 5th level, Building B
SM Podium Exhibit	Nov. 12 - Nov. 20	Podium mall, Ortigas

EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING

Gov't borrows $1B to bail out Napocor

From page A1

watthour Napocor's purchased power adjustment in May 2002.

IPPs

Recto said the $1.5 billion that the government had raised for Napocor would go to operating expenses and to independent power producers (IPPs), which sell power to Napocor.

The "take or pay" clause of Napocor contracts with IPPs require the state-owned corporation to pay from 70 percent to 100 percent of the capacity of an IPP.

Since its contracts with IPPs are quoted in dollars, Napocor also allowed the IPPs to recover losses due to foreign exchange fluctuations, according to the Ibon Research Foundation.

Finance officials said the successful bond offering was an indication of sustained investor confidence in the country. The officials said the investors believe the country could weather the serious fiscal problem it is facing.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said the bond issue, which was originally set at $750 million, was oversubscribed by about six times.

The coupon rate for the bonds that will mature in 2015 is 8.875 percent, while that for the bonds that will mature in 2025 is 10.625 percent.

Of the $1 billion, the bonds maturing in 2025 accounted for $700 million, while those maturing in 2015 accounted for $300 million.

"The unusual result which I'm quite pleased about is that there was almost three times more demand for the longer-term maturity," Recto said.

Stronger appetite

He said the stronger appetite for the 11-year bond could partly be attributed to its higher yield. But it also showed that the market was comfortable with the government's commitment and capacity to improve its fiscal position, according to Recto.

8 September 200

TRADE Secretary Cesar Purisima, at left, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and Energy Secretary Vince Perez attended the Mid-Year Economic Briefing in Makati on Wednesday. AP

The success of the $1-billion bond issue meant that the national government added a huge sum to its already bloated debt stock, which as of February this year had reached P4.1 trillion.

Economists from the University of the Philippines had warned that the country was headed for economic collapse in two to three years unless the government reined in the gaping budget deficit and ballooning debt. The government posted a budget deficit of P199.9 billion last year.

The country's public sector debt, which stood at over P5 trillion as of last year, was primarily blamed on the "mismanagement" of government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) like Napocor.

Public sector debt is the amount of the combined borrowings of the national government, state-owned firms and financial institutions, and local government units.

Congress is preparing an audit of all GOCCs like Napocor to see how their huge losses came about.

"The amount of debt that we have and how it was obtained are things that are a matter of public record. Borrowing is really not the preferred course of action if we have other ways to fund our requirements," Recto said.

Are Abra private armies untouchable?

From page A1

nessed a crime? Nobody wants to talk anymore about things that happen under their noses."

No witnesses

Senior Supt. Artemio Hicban, Abra police director, acknowledged that most people who had witnessed crimes here were afraid to testify, and this had made the job of the police very difficult.

"The police may know the suspects involved but we cannot just conclude [the cases] without witnesses. Our problem is how to convince people to testify," Hicban said.

He said threats from the local warlords had hampered police efforts to stop the activities of these private armies.

He cited cases when policemen would find themselves being blamed and even sued after arresting PAG gunmen.

"Some policemen cannot decide whether to do their normal duties or not because of past experiences where they ended up being the ones in hot water," Hicban said.

"Bodyguards (of politicians) arrested for illegal possession of firearms were usually freed within 24 hours," another police official said.

Courting danger

"Politicians use their connections and the policemen who arrested the suspects end up being either transferred or dismissed from the service," he said, adding that politicians "have ways of circumventing the law."

"Sometimes they allow their goons to join policemen assigned to their areas so when they pass through a checkpoint, they would let the policemen hold the guns," the official said. "Of course, we cannot arrest policemen because they are licensed to hold firearms."

He said performing one's duties had become "a way of inviting danger."

"*Malala ang politics dito* (The politics here is terrible). If policemen did their job, their families would be harassed," he said.

Hicban said infighting among politicians had contributed to political violence in Abra.

"*Nagkawatak-watak na kasi sila at hindi na tulad noon ang political situation* (Unlike before, political parties have fragmented)," he said.

Hicban said that, to intimidate policemen, some of these politicians would flaunt their supposed connections with "high police and government officials."

Laziness and poverty

But he said it was possible that the supposedly highly placed officials whom local politicians bragged about did not know their names were being dragged into the mess.

Valera, who denied rivals' accusations that he himself was operating an armed group, said he wanted to bring the issue of the so-called private armies in Abra to the attention of Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"(This is) an eye-opener to everyone concerned," the governor said. "I wanted to see the new secretary of local government but I know that he had just assumed office. I wish I will be given a chance to talk to him about this thing."

Valera offered his own explanations as to why PAGs in Abra have endured.

"For one thing, the reason they have lasted is because of laziness and also because of poverty," he said. "There is fast money if they accomplish an operation. They are paid handsomely by the ones maintaining them," he said.

'Jueteng' money

Two local officials and a scion of a political family interviewed by the INQUIRER—Ares, Vladimir and Adolf—declined to give details on how they fund their private armies.

An Abra official, however, said some officials used a portion of their local government funds, as well as money from illegal gambling, like "jueteng," and from their personal businesses to finance their armies.

Ares said that, with or without politics, his PAG would survive, adding that he could generate money from "outside activities" to fund his army.

These activities, the INQUIRER learned, include allowing PAG gunmen to work for other people outside the province.

"I do not deny the fact that they make more money being members of PAGs but it is not because we pay them a handsome monthly salary," Ares said. "They are sometimes asked by the military to take on special assignments."

Drug addicts among targets

Some PAG members, according to INQUIRER sources, become "vigilantes" and wage war on criminals and illegal drug users.

"I have a personal [crusade] against illegal drugs because I have seen how (they) ruined the lives of my cousins," Ares said.

"Most of the operations where my men were involved were drug-related. The most recent was in Iligan (City). They have reached as far as the Visayas for their special assignments."

Ares said that when the police and the military could not move against suspected drug lords because they were either relatives of top officials or were protected by some officials, his men would do the job for them.

"We have helped in the crackdown on several syndicates," he said.

Ares has claimed responsibility for the recent beheading of three men allegedly involved in the illegal drugs trade in Baguio City.

Scum of the earth

"We do not kill people who are not scum of society. If they are scum, I myself will kill them," he said.

The amount of money his men are paid depends on the kind of assignment they carry out, he said.

Ares merely smiled when he was asked about the supposed support his group's operations was getting from top military and police officials.

The three PAG maintainers interviewed by the INQUIRER said friends in "high places" supported them by donating firearms, bullets and other equipment.

Their armies have modern assault weapons, high-powered firearms and equipment, including various types of night vision goggles, which the local military and police do not have, they said.

"I admit that we have a wider network outside the province," Ares said. "We rarely have to buy guns and bullets."

Loose firearms

A police sergeant acknowledged that the PAGs had far more lethal firepower than the local police.

"We are only issued rifles but members of PAGs here are armed with baby Armalite rifles and other high-powered guns," the sergeant said. "I am 99 percent sure that these were issued by the military."

Going by the records of the Philippine National Police, there are 192 loose or unlicensed firearms in the hands of PAGs, organized crime syndicates and other "threat groups" in Abra.

PO3 Dennis Palcon, head of the firearms monitoring division of the Abra police, said records from 1998 to 2004 showed that at least 815 firearms in the province had expired licenses.

The operation to recover loose firearms has not exactly met with overwhelming success. Abra police records showed that 46 weapons (19 rifles and 27 handguns) had been either recovered or surrendered to the police this year.

'Everybody has a gun'

Hicban insisted the police were doing everything to "neutralize" the PAGs in the province.

"We have continued surveillance operations and we have added political personalities in our list of people who are suspected of maintaining PAGs," he said.

Most members of the identified PAGs have warrants of arrest.

"They no longer flaunt themselves publicly too much because they have warrants. We continue to monitor them," Hicban said.

He said efforts had also been intensified to recover loose firearms through checkpoints and search and seizure operations.

A police official said dismantling the private armies in Abra would take a collective effort and "a very strong political will" by political leaders of the province.

"In Abra, almost everybody has a gun because people (think they) need it to protect themselves," he said. *(See attached table.)*

WITH more lethal firepower than the police, these barefoot armed men pose for the INQUIRER under the bridge of a dry creek bed somewhere in Abra. EV ESPIRITU

TABLE 2
Abra's annual crime rate from 1998-2004 (SOURCE: Abra police intelligence and investigation division)

	1998 (Election Year)	1999	2000	2001 (Election Year)	2002 (Barangay Elections)	2003	2004 (Jan-Aug) Election Year
Crime Volume	99	No Available Records	155	106	248	341	229
Index Crime (e.g. murder, frustrated murder)	59	NAR	84	56	118	186	150
Non Index Crime (e.g. special laws)	40	NAR	71	50	130	155	79
Crime Solved	85	NAR	142	97	212	281	186
Crime Unsolved	14	NAR	13	9	36	60	43
% of suspected PAG related index crimes	6.77%	NAR	3.57%	19.64%	14.41%	8.06%	26.7%
Crime Solution Efficiency	85%	NAR	91.61%	91.50%	85.48%	82.4%	81.14%

NOTE: Crime solved means that the suspects have been identified and cases can be filed in court

GOVERNOR VALERA: If no one will talk, who will?

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All systems in place vs terror attack

By Alcuin Papa, Christian V. Esguerra, Nancy C. Carvajal and Leila Salaverria

ALL SYSTEMS are in place to thwart any possible terrorist attacks in the country in the wake of yesterday's car bomb explosion in Jakarta, Indonesia that killed at least eight persons and injured around 161 others.

"We are doing all that is necessary to be on a very heightened alert status in order to prevent any untoward incident," said Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz yesterday.

He added that he had already talked to Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes, who had instructed the Philippine National Police to go on red alert. Reyes was also advised to inform local government officials to put in place previously designed mechanisms to ensure security measures.

Tactical requirements

Cruz said he had conferred with National Security Adviser Hermogenes Ebdane to coordinate the government's "tactical requirements" as he ordered Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya to place unit commanders in urban and populated areas on red alert.

Philippine Navy flag-officer-in-command Vice Admiral Ernesto De Leon was also told to place the Marines on red alert, he added. The Marines contingent is the unit that guards the US Embassy.

A Marine battalion had been deployed around Metro Manila to secure the different embassies, De Leon added.

The 5th Marine Battalion Landing Team based at the Marines headquarters inside Fort Bonifacio had been placed under the operational control of the AFP's National Capital Region Command, De Leon said.

Sea patrol

Another marine company is on standby for possible deployment.

A team from the elite Navy Special Warfare Group was also dispatched on board a patrol boat to ply the waters of the Manila Bay near the US Embassy.

De Leon said the Navy has alerted naval forces at strategic urban locations to support the security requirements of the areas under the unified commands.

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, PNP chief, said the National Capital Region Police Office had been instructed to reevaluate security measures being implemented, especially for embassies.

But he assured the public that the PNP had not yet received any report of an impending terrorist attack on embassies.

Aglipay also clarified that declaring a full-alert status was a standard operating procedure whenever the President was out of the country.

President Arroyo is in Brunei for the wedding of Brunei's crown prince to a 17-year-old commoner.

In Makati, Mayor Jejomar Binay ordered a review of the security measures for the city, especially the business district

"The mayor will ask for augmentation of personnel if necessary," Joey Salgado information officer at Makati City Hall said.

At present, there are Special Action Force elements stationed at strategic streets of the country's premier commercial-business district.

About 100 SAF officers equipped with high powered fire arms had been deployed to nine important locations on a 24-hour basis to augment the PNP personnel.

Makati shields

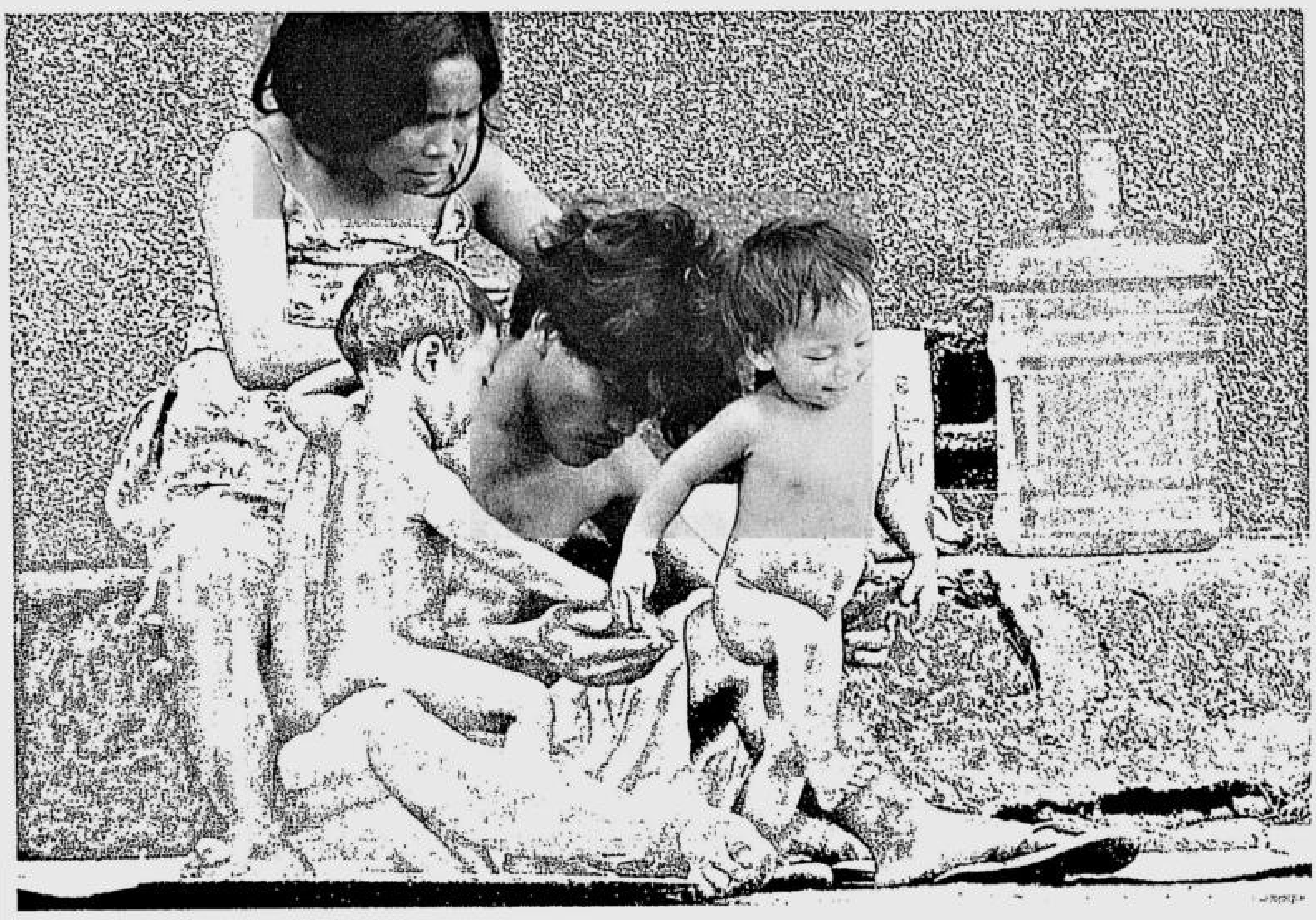
Manila police, on the other hand, stepped up its patrols in the city, especially in areas believed to be potential terrorist targets, said WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

Among the critical infrastructures in Manila are Malacañang Palace, the United States Embassy, the Pandacan oil depot and the LRT stations.

A bomb exploded at the LRT's Blumentritt station on Dec. 30, 2001, leaving more than 10 people dead. The LRT blast was one of five simultaneous bomb explosions that took place in Metro Manila that day.

Bulaong said he did not know when the red alert would be lifted, but he said it would probably take place after the President arrives from her trip to Brunei.

Aglipay said the PNP managed to keep terrorism at bay through Task Force Shanghai, its antiterrorism unit created after the Sept. 11 attacks in the US three years ago.



CAREFREE

While people in government and in business worry about rising gasoline prices and a worsening fiscal crisis, this family appears engaged in a more important yet simpler facet of life—being together on their portion of the NIA Road in Quezon City.

JOAN BONDOC

Tumana project has no money

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE TUMANA bridge project in Marikina City has become a monument to the fiscal crisis plaguing the government.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) announced yesterday that there was not enough money to finish the bridge as scheduled this year.

The bridge, an alternate route between Quezon City and Marikina City, costs around P160 million, but only P51 million have been released since construction began in February 2003.

"This is a piecemeal project. We work as soon as the money is available," said Engineer Ray Bautista, the project chief.

DPWH-led project

The project is being undertaken by DPWH, through 310 Construction Specialist Corp.

The bridge's P31-million foundation was completed in March. The DPWH is now in Phase 2 stage, which includes the capping of the bridge.

Another P20 million has been released for that, Bautista said.

To underscore the problem of funding, the engineer explained that the P20 million would only be good to buy and install 14 girders and five caps.

A girder is a horizontal metal beam supporting the bridge.

Six more girders are needed to complete Phase 2.

Remaining work

The final work would include the construction of the concrete pavement, the two elevated approaches from both ends of the bridge, and the sidewalk and railings.

The makeshift bridge currently in use almost always goes underwater when the Marikina River rises during storms or heavy rain. During the monsoon rains two weeks ago, the bridge was under water for several days.

A system of automatically closing it to traffic has been developed after the water current proved too much for light vehicles. In one incident, a van was nearly swept away when it tried to cross the flooded bridge.

Close-open

Today, the bridge is closed whenever the water rises above it. The system ensures the safety of lives and property.

But every time the bridge is closed, it causes great inconvenience to motorists and commuters, especially students.

Tumana Bridge is the easiest, closest and least congested route to Quezon City from Marikina City. Thousands of students and workers pass over it every day.

Whenever it is closed, motorists would have to take the longer, more congested Bonifacio Avenue.

PUP 'rainbow' hopes to make it to Guinness

By Dona Pazzibugan

TO CELEBRATE its centenary, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) will attempt to break into the Guinness Book of World Records for forming the world's largest "human rainbow."

PUP is in the thick of preparations to mobilize its students, faculty and alumni to form themselves into a seven-colored rainbow arc at the Luneta grounds on Sept. 18, Saturday.

The current record holder, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, is the Hongkong Polytechnic University, which was able to gather 10,000 students and faculty for the feat.

But two other universities in Malta and in Georgia, USA have reportedly already succeeded in beating that record.

With its 55,000 student population, PUP is the country's biggest university in terms of student size.

Officials said the university should also be recognized worldwide.

Dr. Samuel Salvador, acting PUP president, said their attempt at a world record would be a fitting event to usher in their centennial celebration starting Oct. 1.

But he added that forming a human rainbow meant more.

"It embodies our struggle from a very small vocational institution to the biggest university in the country," Salvador said.

PUP opened on Oct. 19, 1904 as the Manila Business School, a night school offering vocational-technical courses.

A few years later it was renamed the Philippine School of Commerce. In 1978, through a presidential decree, it was given its present name.

Salvador said their university has expanded beyond vocational and business courses, and now has 18 campuses, the most among the universities here.

47,000 police officers go one rank higher

WITH heads raised high, members of the national police march in Camp Crame during Thursday's rites, where PNP Chief Edgar Aglipay announced the promotion of 44,700 lawmen.

JOAN BONDOC

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE 116,000-STRONG Philippine National Police has a new set of officers to beef up its badly depleted ranks.

PNP chief Director General Edgar Aglipay yesterday announced the recruitment of 15,075 new policemen.

These included 249 lawyers, doctors, nurses and chemists.

Most of the lawyers, doctors and nurses will be assigned in the provinces where there's a scarcity of legal and medical officers.

On top of the recruitment, Aglipay announced the promotion of 44,708 policemen with the rank of PO1 to SPO4 and 2,813 with the rank of inspector and up.

Before the recruitment, there was only one policeman tasked to secure 1,500 citizens.

The ideal ratio is one officer for every 500 people.

Dynamite fishermen convicted

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COAST Guard claimed victory yesterday in the battle against dynamite fishing with the conviction of four men who were caught using explosives to catch fish in Bataan last year.

The four men, identified as Dennis Nazareno, Rio dela Cruz, Alexander Francisco and Loreta Austria, were sentenced to five years imprisonment by Judge Bartolome Flores of Branch 4 of the Bataan Regional Trial Court on Sept. 7.

Caught in the act

The blast fishermen were caught in the act in March last year by the Coast Guard a few kilometers off the Lamao pier in Limay town.

Initially, the four suspects claimed innocence but later retracted and pleaded guilty due to the evidence gathered against them.

PCG Commandant Vice-Admiral Arthur Gosingan, in a statement issued yesterday, praised Judge Flores for the decision.

Tamayo said yesterday that the conviction of the four was a victory because only a few people get convicted for dynamite fishing.

"This is a very good development because in the past, our cases against dynamite fishermen would get dismissed," he said.

INQBOX
Question of the Week
Amid worries about high oil prices, terrorism and the fiscal crisis, what is it that helps or inspires you? What keeps you going?
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Vintage bomb goes off; 2 killed

By Luige A. del Puerto

IT IS common sense not to get near a bomb, even a vintage one. It is testing fate to try to cut one into two.

Two men died after a World War II bomb they were trying to saw open exploded yesterday morning in Rodriguez, Rizal, police said.

Both Ronald Cruz, 30, and Edgar Salcedo, 34, were hit by shrapnel. They failed to make it alive to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina City.

Another victim, Mario Surera, suffered slight injuries in his hands. He was declared out of danger yesterday.

Warnings ignored

Rizal Police chief Sr. Supt. Leocadio Santiago was sad, but was at the same time outraged by the incident.

"Ever since we discovered more than 100 vintage bombs in Antipolo City last month, I had been all over the radio telling people not to tinker with vintage bombs if they find one," Santiago said over the phone.

"Apparently, some people don't really listen," he said.

Cruz and Salcedo had gone to Surera's house in Sitio Wawa to borrow a metal saw. They had found a bomb and had wanted to cut it, police said.

Loud explosion

Surera accompanied the two to the back of his house, where they supposedly started sawing the bomb, police said.

Minutes later, neighbors heard a loud, ringing explosion. They rushed to the back of Surera's house and found the three men on the ground, bloodied.

Santiago said the victims might be trying to retrieve powder, which could be sold for use in fireworks.

Santiago cautioned residents never to attempt to open a bomb in whatever way.

Murder raps filed vs Reyes

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SISTER of suspected kidnappers killed in a gun battle with National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKTF) agents has linked Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes to the killing of Manila International Airport Authority finance executive Lilia Diaz last year.

In a multiple murder complaint she filed against Reyes, Rosalie P. Ramoso said the Diaz murder was among the reasons her brothers, Rogelio and Ronaldo, were gunned down by the NAKTF on Dec. 31, 2003.

According to Ramoso, it was her brother Rogelio—along with Edwin Jordan and Edwin Pastrana—who shot Diaz in her van at the Moonwalk subdivision in Parañaque.

Before the murder, she said her brother was given a video camera by NAKTF agents to monitor Diaz's movements.

Ramoso claimed to have seen the video showing Diaz boarding her van "from what seemed to be her home, her route to Naia, and back to her home."

She added that she overheard her brother and Jordan say that a certain GM had ordered Reyes to "take care of the problem, that the issue involved money amounting to billions at Naia, and that Lilia was about to betray GM."

According to her, she was shocked to see on television on Sept. 10, 2003 that the woman gunned down by two killers on board a motorcycle was Diaz.

"My brother later admitted that it was he who drove the bike and that Edwin shot Lilia as her van crossed Moonwalk in Parañaque," her affidavit further read.

Also charged with the offense were Police Supts. Jesus Versoza and Edgar Danao, and Police Senior Insp. Elwin Fernandez, all of whom allegedly recruited the Ramoso brothers and coordinated with them in plotting Diaz's murder.

She claimed that Danao later arrested a "fall guy" (Zaldi Dagting) and identified him as the killer.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Reyes for comment, but his secretaries in his offices at the Department of Interior and Local Government, Camp Crame, and the National Police Commission Office referred this reporter to Interior Undersecretary Melchor Rosales, Reyes's spokesperson.

Rosales brushed aside the charges as "harassment complaints," which, he said, Reyes would rather answer in court.

"Besides, we have already answered all these rehashed charges," Rosales said.

The Ramosos had earlier filed several charges against Reyes, including accusations that he and his men had participated in kidnap-and-rescue activities, with Chinese-Filipinos as victims.

But Rosales said even prominent civic leader Teresita Ang-See had cleared Reyes.

Those who filed the charges could be members of kidnapping syndicates hurt by Reyes' success in the anti-kidnapping drive, Rosales added.

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Pa's persistence yields results

By Leila B. Salaverria

A FATHER'S persistence led him to the trail of two suspects who could be the killers of his son.

No bail had been recommended by Prosecutor Richard Paradeza of the Manila Prosecutors Office for Marlon de Guzman, 18, and Marcelino Herrera, 25, who were arrested earlier for the killing of 17-year-old scholar Joshua Rañola during a robbery in Binondo, Manila, in July.

The two are now facing complaints of robbery with homicide.

They were accused of stabbing Rañola, a psychology freshman and a scholar at the City Colleges of Manila, during a robbery at the corner of Reina Regente and Soler Streets in Binondo.

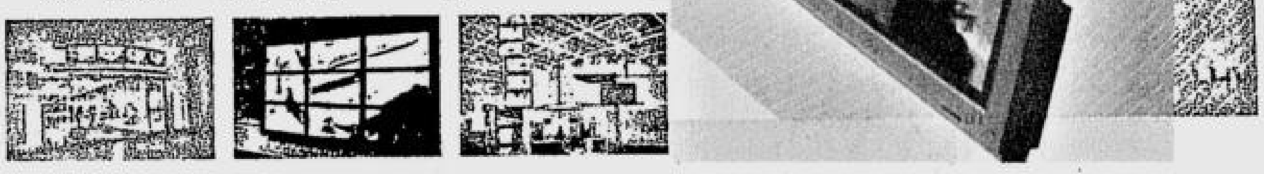
De Guzman told the INQUIRER that he stabbed the victim when the latter asked for help as they fled the crime scene.

On Tuesday, police learned from Ranola's father, Elmo, that the suspects were detained at Station 2 in Tondo for illegal possession of a firearm.

Elmo had been visiting the Western Police District weekly to check arrests made at police stations in Manila since his son's death.

The elder Rañola told the police about the pair's detention at Station 2, banking on the chance that they could be his son's killers. Two new witnesses brought in by police then identified the suspects as the ones who stabbed the student.

"I'm glad my work produced results and the suspects have been arrested," Elmo said. "Civilians must also do their part and help the police to get faster results."



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Fire hits Magallanes church

AN HOURLONG fire destroyed the interiors of the parish church in Magallanes Village, Makati City, yesterday.

The fire, which started at 4:35 a.m., damaged the dome, altar, pews and statues inside the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori church inside the village.

No one was hurt in the fire that was under control at 5:32 a.m.

Investigators have not yet been able to determine the cause of the fire. The air-conditioned church was built in the 1960s.

Fire Marshall Arsenio Tabajunda said the damage could exceed P2 million because of the religious relics inside the church. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Malabon seeks P600-M loan for projects

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MALABON City government is planning to borrow at least P600 million from private lenders to support future infrastructure projects.

During the regular session yesterday, the city council authorized Mayor Canuto Oreta to negotiate with private lenders for the proposed loan.

The resolution, filed about a month ago, was approved after the second reading yesterday, Vice Mayor Arnold Vicencio said.

The loan would be used for local infrastructure and other socio-economic projects, according to the resolution.

In an earlier interview, Oreta told the INQUIRER that when he took over as mayor, the city had no sufficient budget left to cover local infrastructure projects.

This included the rehabilitation of City Hall, portions of which burned down three months ago.

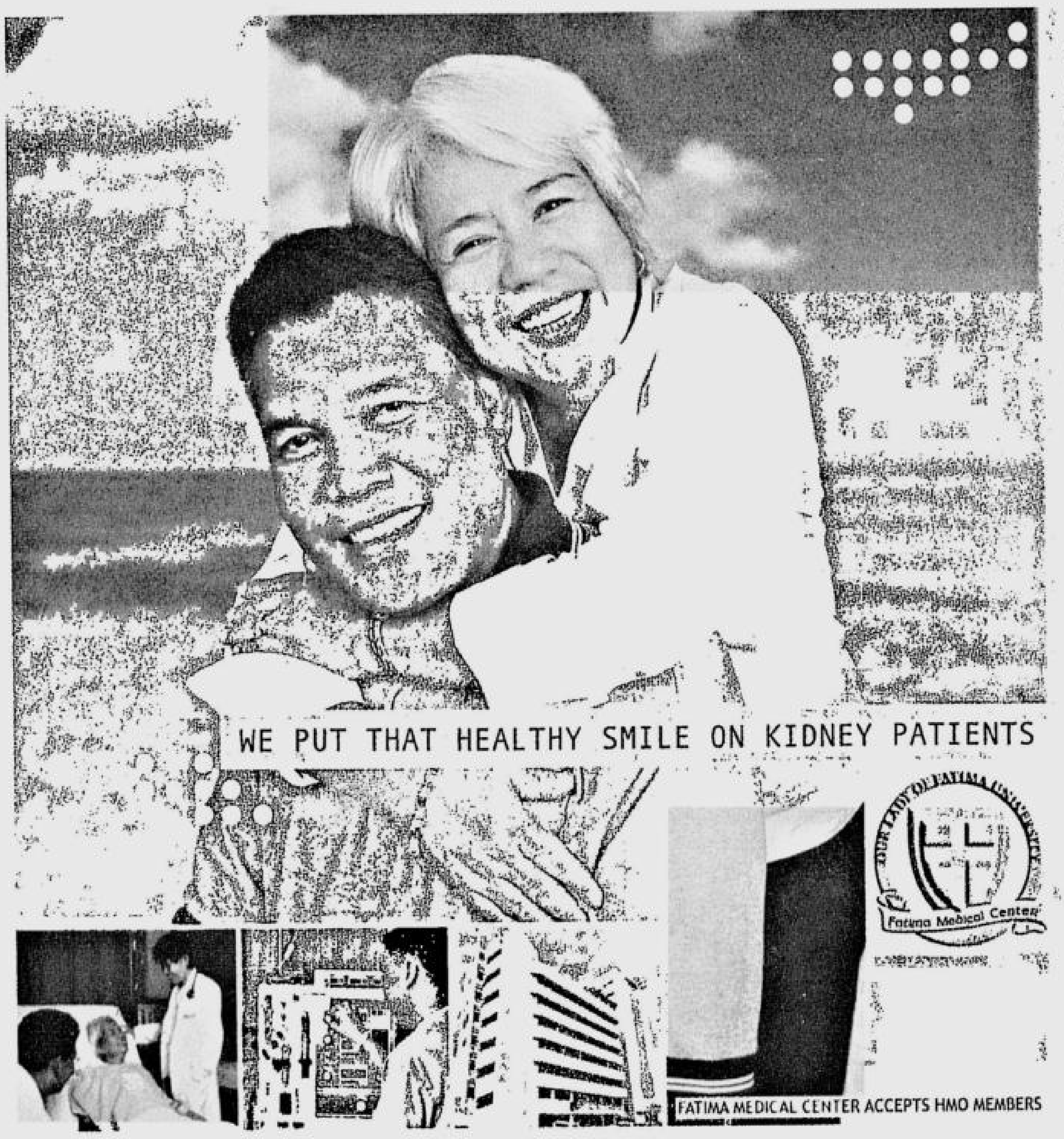
Opposition councilors earlier raised questions about the resolution.

Some councilors had asked how the amount was determined, even though there were no specific projects listed under the proposal.

Despite the questions raised, the resolution was unanimously approved yesterday.

Oreta said earlier that his city had relied on the Internal Revenue Allocation (IRA) from the national government to pay for expenses.

If this is reduced—a proposal that had been turned down the other day by most Metro Manila mayors—basic services in the city would suffer, the mayor said.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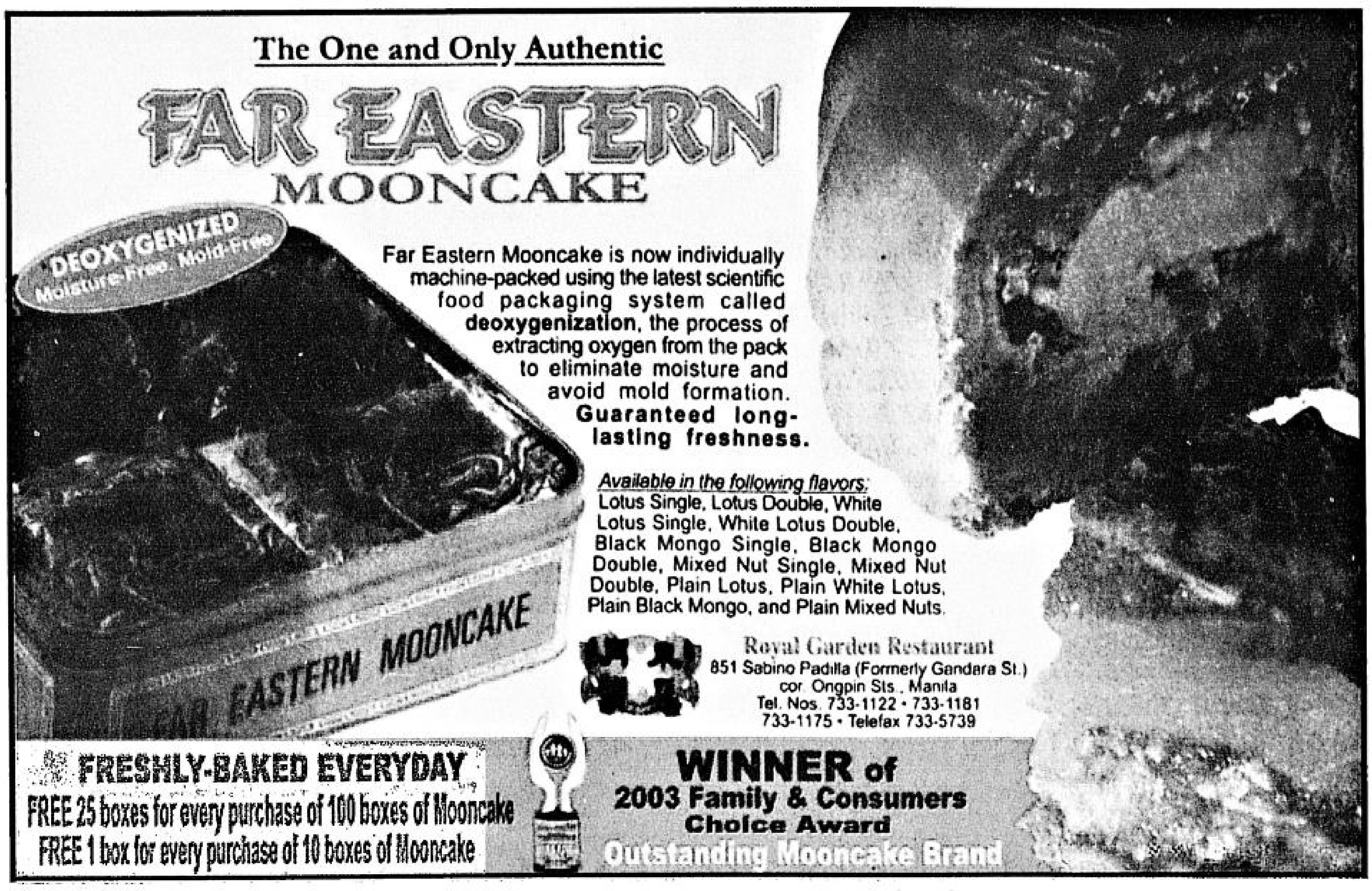
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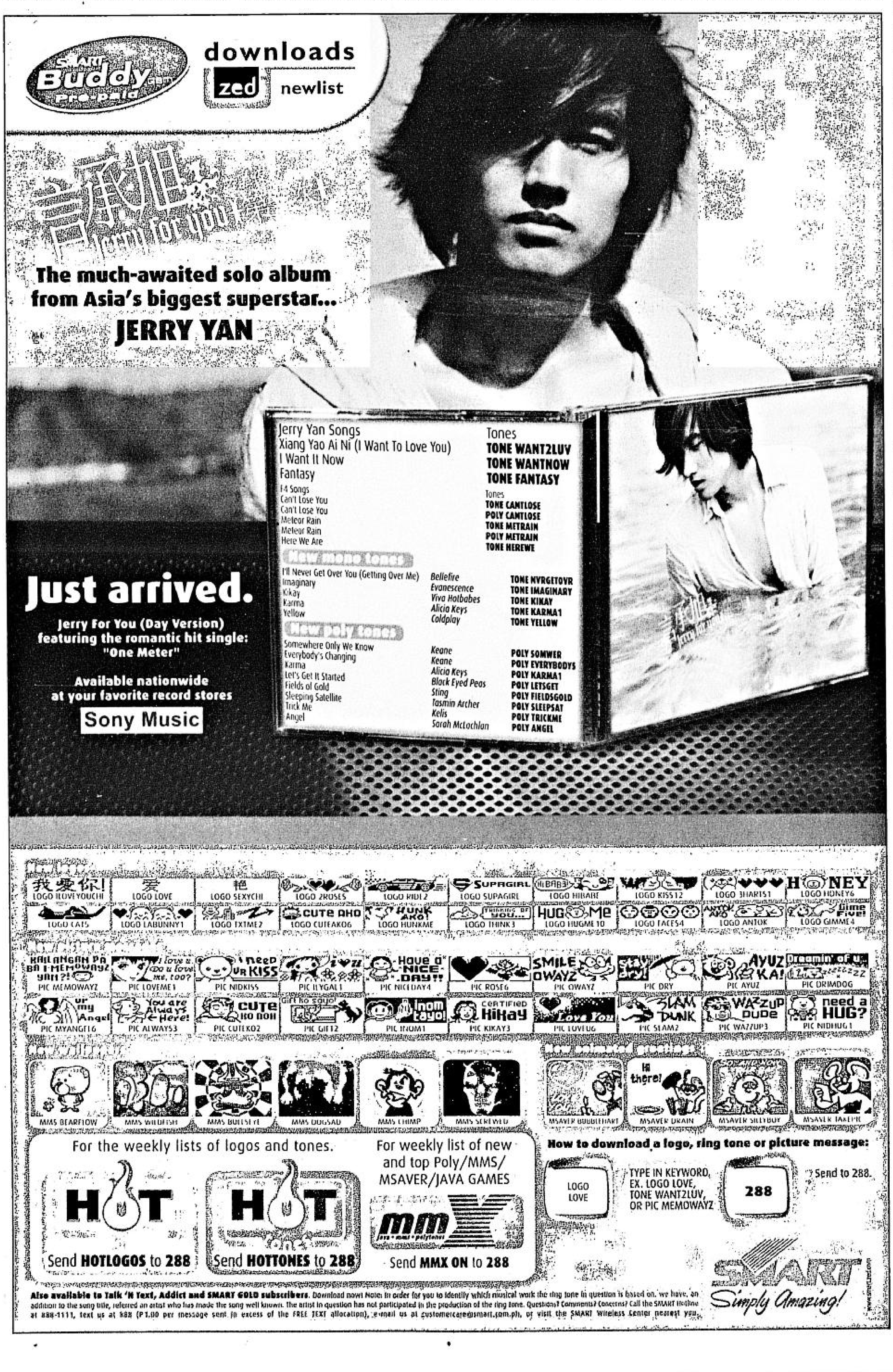
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Cracker factory blast kills 2

Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

A 2-YEAR-OLD girl and her year-old brother were killed Thursday when firecrackers exploded in a home factory in Barangay Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, police said.

The victims, Maria Teresa and Mar John Alcantara, both suffered from third degree burns on their bodies.

Police said the victims' mother, Zoraida Alcantara, was not in the factory when the explosion occurred. They said Alcantara was not a registered manufacturer.

Deadly play

Police were looking into reports that the blast occurred when the two children sneaked inside the restricted manufacturing shanty factory and played with the chemicals and finished pyrotechnic products.

Reports said the factory workers were taking a break at that time. Police estimated the damage at P80,000.

September is the start of the peak production and sale of firecrackers and pyrotechnic products here and other Bulacan towns in preparation for the holidays.

Law enacted

In 1992, Congress enacted Republic Act 7183 or An Act Regulating the Sale, Manufacture, Distribution and Use of Firecrackers and other Pyrotechnic Devices.

One of the aims of the law is to prevent the proliferation of illegal firecracker factories.

Yesterday's blast was an indication that the illegal manufacture of pyrotechnic materials was still taking place.

Lawmen told to cite drivers of gov't cars

By Clarissa S. Batino

DRIVERS of government-owned vehicles are not immune to arrest.

As such, Secretary Leandro Mendoza of the Department of Transportation and Communication urged the police yesterday to apprehend drivers of erring red plate vehicles.

Mendoza issued the call to traffic enforcement officers a day after he warned against the use of government vehicles for nonofficial business.

According to him, most drivers of red plate vehicles violate traffic rules with impunity as they are emboldened by the reluctance of traffic enforcers to flag them down and slap them penalties.

High standards

"Public office demands high standards for government officials. I think this campaign (of monitoring unauthorized use of government vehicles) should be widened to cover other violations committed by drivers of government-issued vehicles," the DOTC chief said.

He said traffic policemen must strictly enforce road regulations by not turning a blind eye on violations committed by drivers of government vehicles.

"Traffic enforcers of the MMDA, the PNP and local government units should not hesitate to issue traffic violation tickets to all erring drivers, whether they are driving government vehicles or not," Mendoza said.

He said drivers of government vehicles should set a good example.

Obedience to traffic laws and their enforcement eases the flow of traffic and minimizes accidents.

Eases traffic

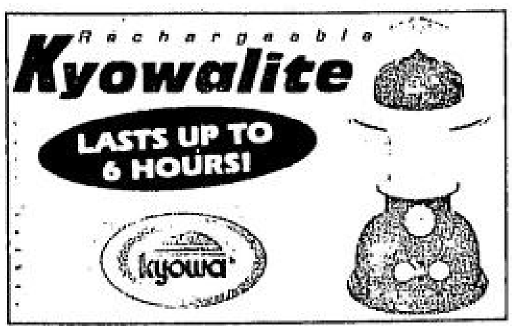
Mendoza said he had directed the DOTC Action Center to assist the Land Transportation Office in complying with a Malacañang order to monitor and report unauthorized use of government vehicles.

Mendoza said the field personnel of the DOTC Action Center, while primarily concerned with enforcing traffic laws and going after smoke-belching vehicles, would also assist the LTO in its Palace-mandated task.

He said the LTO and DOTC operatives should not only keep an eye on schools but also shopping malls and leisure places, especially at night.

The DOTC chief said the public could also help in the campaign to ensure that government vehicles are used only for official functions and tasks.

Mendoza said concerned citizens could call the DOTC Action Center Hotline 7890 or text 2299 if they know of any violations.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La Salle routs UE, gains playoff

NIÑO Canaleta (left) drives past La Salle's Joseph Casio and Junjun Cabatu. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—Adamson vs UST (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs UST (Srs)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs FEU (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE LA SALLE Archers made it clear right from the opening tip that they wanted a shot at the No. 2 spot.

Spitfire Mac Cardona shot 14 of his 20 points in the first half and the Archers sustained their strong start to whip the University of the East Warriors, 81-61, yesterday and gain a playoff for the twice-to-beat edge in the 67th UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

"Coming into this game, we really had the momentum. We wanted to win badly," said Archers coach Franz Pumaren.

Ateneo and defending champion Far Eastern, the co-leaders at 10-3, dispute the top semifinal berth tomorrow with the loser going into a rubber match with La Salle (10-4) for the second spot on Tuesday at the Philsports Arena.

"I'll be scouting on Saturday," said Pumaren after the Archers' sixth straight win.

The Warriors, who came into the game assured of a semifinal appearance, remained at fourth with an 8-6 record.

The top two teams in the eliminations need just one win in the Final Four playoffs to reach the finals while their rivals have to prevail twice. The semifinal pairings are 1 versus 4 and 2 versus 3.

In the other senior game, the University of the Philippines Maroons closed their campaign with a decent fifth-place finish at 7-7 after trouncing the National University Bulldogs, 64-55.

La Salle took an early 22-11 lead that Paolo Hubalde cut to 31-24 before the Taft-based cagers settled for a 42-32 buffer at the break.

The Archers continued their onslaught in the third quarter behind guards TY Tang and JV Casio to take a 20-point cushion, 65-45, and stretched this to 26 points, 81-55, in the final two minutes.

La Salle hardly missed the services of Joseph Yeo (12.1 ppg) who served his one-game suspension for incurring two unsportsmanlike fouls.

LA SALLE/ A27

NCAA Final Four under way today

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (Srs)
4 p.m.—Perpetual vs San Beda (Srs)

THERE is perhaps no NCAA Final Four cast more surprising than this season.

Save for defending champion Letran Knights, all the other semifinalists were at the bottom rung last year.

And the Knights are the underdogs when they tangle at 2 p.m. with the Philippine Christian U Dolphins in the first semifinal clash of the NCAA basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Perpetual Help Altas clash with the San Beda Lions, who qualified only after a playoff win over Mapua Wednesday, in the second Final Four pairing at 4 p.m.

Perpetual and PCU, the cellar-dwellers last season, amazingly took the top two Final Four spots for a twice-to-beat advantage. Both the Altas and the Dolphins finished with 10-4 records at the end of the eliminations, but Perpetual took the No. 1 ranking due to a superior quotient.

Perpetual pins its championship hopes on sweet-shooting Noy Javier, the league's top scorer with a 20.7 point average. The Las Piñas squad has never won the title since it joined the league 20 years ago.

The Altas, however, will play without sophomore Vladimir Joe. The Amerasian forward, the team's third highest scorer (12 ppg), will serve his one-game suspension today after hitting Mapua's Erwin Sta. Maria in their last outing.

PCU, which is coming off a second-round sweep, will again rely on Robert Sanz, Jason Castro and Rookie of the Year shoo-in Gabby Espinas.

Unlike last year, Letran will enter the Final Four without the twice-to-beat incentive. The Knights finished third at 9-5.

Aside from the Dolphins' hot seven-game streak, the Knights have to endure playing minus lead scorer Ronjay Enrile (13 ppg), who will sit out his second suspension of the season today after choking San Sebastian's Leo Najorda in their last game.

San Beda, though taking the long route to the fourth spot, is making its first Final Four appearance in seven years.

San Beda actually has proven its worth against Perpetual. The Lions had already routed the Altas, 66-52, in their second-round meeting. *Jasmine W. Payo*

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2004; 7 a.m. (r-7 p.m.) and 11 p.m.; Star Sports—Men's quarterfinal action continues while women's singles semifinals and men's doubles finals go underway from Flushing Meadows, New York.

BASEBALL: MLB-Phillies vs Braves; 7:30 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); ESPN—Philadelphia takes on Atlanta in this NL encounter

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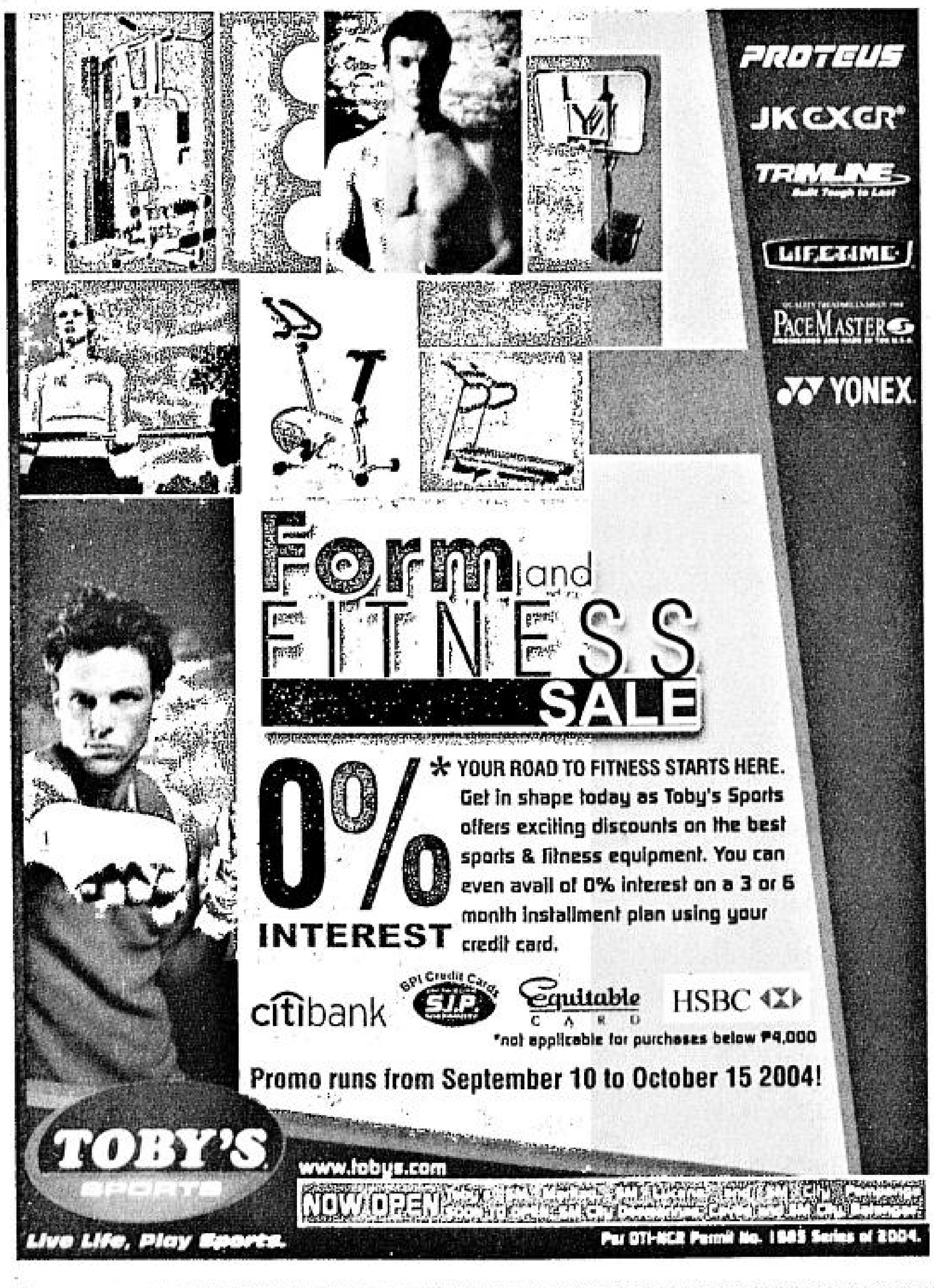
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SIGNING the sponsorship contract for the third Hundred Presidents Invitational Golf Tournament are, from left, Belle Corp. VP for Marketing Belinda Lim-Herrera, Tagaytay Midlands chair Willy Ocier, PDI President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Tagaytay Midlands President Jerry Tiu and Tagaytay Midlands GM Nick Celdran. Standing from right, PDI VP for Marketing Donald Lim, Arsenic Laurel of the tournament committee, PDI SVP for Marketing and Sales Rene Reinoso, PDI product manager Hazel Soriaga, Tagaytay Midlands Asst. GM for Sports & Golf Services Loy Bernardino and IGM editor Jong Arcano.

THE THIRD edition of the Hundred Presidents Invitational tournament of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will have a new twist with the country's top professional golfers set to join the invited company CEOs and bigwigs in the 18-hole event scheduled Friday, Nov. 12, at the picturesque Tagaytay Midlands Golf and Country Club.

Held as a purely amateur event in the first two editions at Sta. Elena (2002) and Club Intramuros (2003), this year's tournament will shift to the best-ball format with cash prizes up for grabs for the pros, according to tournament host and PDI President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

Cassius Casas, Robert Pactolerin, Gerald Rosales and Antonio Lascuña are among those to be invited at the Midlands course, one of two 18-hole layouts in the complex offering a breathtaking view of Taal Lake.

The organizing Philippine Daily Inquirer and the sponsoring Belle Resources Corp. have already signed the memorandum of agreement for the hosting of Tagaytay Midlands Golf and Country Club

Willie Ocier and Jerry Tiu, chair and president, respectively, of the Tagaytay Midlands, Belinda Lim-Herrera, vice president for marketing of Belle Resources, TM general manager Nick Celdran and Romualdez inked the sponsorship deal of the unique event that features the top brass of major companies in the land.

Tagaytay Midlands has become a favorite golfing destination not just because of the perfect weather in the area but the excellent amenities that won it the Inquirer Golf Monthly's best in facilities award two years ago.

Musong R. Castillo

Murakami, Pagunsan pace RP team tryouts

By Musong R. Castillo

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—Artemio Murakami shot an even par 72 at Tat Filipinas yesterday and tied Juvic Pagunsan for the lead after three rounds of the NGAP evaluation series for the Philippine World Amateur team.

The former Philippine Amateur champion and Pagunsan, who had a 73, now have 217 totals for a three-stroke advantage over the third-running Marvin Dumandan.

Dumandan broke par for the first time, shooting a 71 like reigning RP champ Jun Bernis, for 220, three ahead of Michael Bibat (72), and six clear of former jungolf ace JR Tanpinco, who turned in a 74.

Bernis, after an 80 at the Malarayat, climbed to sixth with a 226.

The final round of the first half of this series is scheduled at the Alabang Golf and Country Club today.

Meanwhile, Luisito Fernandez, the non-playing captain for the RP World Amateur team to Puerto Rico, on Wednesday night confirmed that the top two players after the 144-hole event will automatically make it to the World Amateur team.

The third member of the team will be "the captain's pick," who will be recommended by coach Roger Retuerto and some members of the NGAP board.

In a related development, the NGAP will send Bibat and Boyet Saragoza to the Singapore Amateur slated Sept. 14-17.

Tommy Manotoc, the chair of the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation, will join the two and will also play in the individual event there.

Since the next 72 holes of the evaluation series are scheduled on exactly the same dates at Canlubang, Aguinaldo, Villamor and possibly Manila Golf, the scores of Bibat and Saragoza in Singapore will count in the qualifying series.

RUDY ESPERAS

MURAKAMI: On target for a World Amateur slot.

Palace mum on SEAG

MALACAÑANG remains undecided on whether the Philippines will host next year's Southeast Asian Games considering the serious financial problems besetting the government.

"I don't know what is the status of the Games," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday.

Bunye said that while SEA Games committee chair Roberto Pagdanganan had recommended that the Philippines pushes through with the hosting, he has yet to check on the matter with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bunye also did not say whether the President was thinking of reconsidering the Philippines' hosting of the regional sports event considering that at least P1 billion is needed to stage it.

Gil Cabacungan

ABC stint for pros likely–Encarnado

By June Navarro

IF A NEW deal is struck between the Philippine Basketball Association and the Basketball Association of the Philippines, the partnership would include a tournament which serves as springboard for the Olympics.

PBA chair Buddy Encarnado yesterday said that a fresh memorandum of agreement between the pro league and the BAP would most likely include a stint by the PBA in the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) championship, the qualifying tournament for the Olympics.

"As far as I'm concerned, we still have an agreement with the BAP with respect to the Asian Games and we're honoring it. Now, if both parties come up with a new MOA, including the ABC is a possibility," said Encarnado.

In the past, the PBA has concentrated on the formation of the national team only for the Asian Games while the BAP takes care of fielding teams in the ABC and other international tournaments.

"If there will be any discussion regarding the MOA, I believe the PBA and the BAP will just focus on upgrading it," said Encarnado.

As proof of the league's commitment to the national team, the PBA has altered its calendar and format to accommodate the training and participation of the RP dribblers not only in the Asian Games but also in the ABC.

Once the BAP entrusts the affairs of the national team in the ABC to the PBA, it will open the door for a possible stint in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The top two finishers in the 2007 ABC qualify for the 2008 Olympics but because Beijing is guaranteed a slot as Olympic host, three Asian squads could join the Olympic field.

The champion and runner-up in the 2005 ABC will make it to the World Basketball Championships in 2006.

Sacrifice, hard work

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I DON'T know if Vijay Singh kicking Tiger Woods out of the No. 1 world position is an upset. But what I do know is, Nadia Petrova eliminating defending champion Justine Henin-Hardenne in the US Open is an upset; a first-class upset even.

It was just waiting to happen, that Singh thing.

Tiger Woods had been in a slump too long many have not stopped wondering how come nobody has ever overtaken him in the world rankings—until Tuesday, Sept. 7.

For 264 weeks, Tiger Woods was atop the world. However, in the last 14 months, he has not won a stroke play event, and only once did he win—the Match Play. Yet, he has clung to the No. 1 position like no opponent was worthy, if not good enough, to dislodge him.

Oh, well, give it to Tiger Woods. He may not have been winning, but he was always there fighting, even occupying consistent slots in the Top 10. He even almost won twice recently; one tournament had him finishing second despite producing four rounds in the 60s. And yes, how many consecutive cuts has he done while clinging to the top spot like a barnacle? An unbelievable string of nearly 200 tournaments already—a record.

But for Singh to score the feat, it wasn't easy.

The 41-year-old Fijian had to birdie three of the last four holes on Tuesday of the PGA Deutsche Bank Championship in Norton, Massachussettes to oust Woods, beating the former king by two strokes with a final-day 69 and transforming a dream into reality.

"It's great," said Singh, who won a whopping $900,000 for his eighth victory of the season. "I've worked pretty hard for this. I finally achieved what I wanted to do starting at the beginning of the year. It was a good win, as well. Coming down the stretch it got pretty tight there, but I got focused and I played pretty good coming down."

Woods rallied from four strokes down in a scary span of two holes as Singh flirted with disaster. And with five holes left, Woods appeared ready to produce another of his legendary escape acts when he drew level with his foe 12 years his senior. It was due in large part to a chip-in birdie for Woods at 12, somewhat rattling Singh who went on to bogey 13.

Suddenly, there's a thief slashing Singh's back pocket.

And, almost in a flash, the past ricocheted in Singh's mind: In three previous head-to-head showdown with Woods, Singh had finished second each time.

But this time, Singh did not give up the ghost. And what did it were his three birdies on the last four holes, a blazing finish that was usually the trademark of Woods.

Suddenly, a reversal of roles has happened, Singh becoming the steadier of the two.

"I enjoy playing with Tiger," said Singh. "He's a very intense player and he makes you know that. So you just have to go out there and play your own game and beat him and that's the only way to play."

Singh, who I last saw in 2000 when I attended a rules seminar in Jacksonville, Florida, with Vince Villafuerte and Jake Ayson, has won three majors to Woods' eight; Singh's last major came only last month, in the PGA Championship.

"It probably hasn't sunk in yet," said Singh of his new position as the world's No. 1 golfer. "It was a goal from the beginning of the year."

Not many people know this but Singh was a regular campaigner in the Asian Golf Tour. Then, without any warning, he quit the game. He retreated to his native Fiji and spent one year there doing nothing but hit buckets of balls at the driving range every day. When he thought he was ready for a comeback, he went to Europe, using the European Tour as his springboard to the US Tour.

You talk of sacrifice and hard work to gain success, there's Vijay Singh for you. He's now won almost $9 million. And that's just only for this season that isn't quite over yet.

SPORTSWATCH

So snares Asean age-group crown

PROMIL Kid TV commercial model Wesley So of the Philippines dropped his ninth and final round match, but still won the boys' 12-under of the 5th Asean age-group championships on Wednesday in Vung-Tau, Vietnam. So, whose trip is sponsored by the First Gentleman Foundation, lost to Daryl Wong of Singapore to finish with 7.0 points, the same total of another Singaporean, Terry Chua, who likewise lost his final assignment opposite Ng Trung Hieu of Vietnam. So emerged with the better quotient to prevail. Marc Christian Nazario took the measure of Vietnamese Le Trong De Toan to improve his output to 6.0. University of the East junior standout Alces Salvador, playing with sore eyes, beat Singapore's Elisabeth Loh to finish with 5.5 points.

Marlon Bernardino

Paragua competes in 2nd Alushta tilt

FILIPINO Mark Paragua presses his bid for a grandmaster title as he competes in the 2nd Alushta Tournament starting today in Alushta, Crimea, Ukraine. Fresh from winning the 1st Alushta GMT and earning his second GM result, Paragua needs to score at least 12 points in the 18-player tournament to attain full-fledged GM status. Russian GMs Ramil Hasangatin, Veniamen Shtrenkov and Andrey Nikitn lead the field that also includes WGMs/IMs Nino Khurtsidze of Georgia and Olga Alexandrova of Ukraine.

Marlon Bernardino

Laguna Spring topples Baguio

SPRING Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Spring toppled the Baguio Cardinals, 84-75, while Skygo-supported Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) ripped the Batangas 29ers, 82-71, Wednesday to show the way in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship. The Spring of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro notched their seventh win in 12 games at the University of Baguio gym. The event is sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Natural Spring Mineral Water, Cebu ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans-Asia, Accel and Molten.

Homer Cagers, Air Force gain semis

HOMER Cagers and Air Force triumphed Wednesday night to gain the semifinals of the NBDL-7th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the PAF gym inside Villamor Air Base. Homer Go's charges subdued Navy, 121-118, while the Airmen stunned Mayor Toti Paredes' SSC-Cavite, 93-84. The crossover semifinals will be held today at the Arellano University gym with Homer Cagers facing the Navy squad at 7 p.m. and SSC-Cavite taking on Col. Roelito Nolasco's Airmen at 8:30.

Bartolomes rule Clark Rally Raid

CALTEX Delo Sports' legendary off-roader Noel Bartolome and his son Noel Jr. turned the 1st Clark Rally Raid in Clark, Pampanga, into their playground, besting a field of veteran 4x4 campaigners recently. Noel's 16-year-old son was on the driver's seat in the first-ever rally-raid style 4x4 tournament. The Bartolomes posted an aggregate time of 17:37 to rule the 6-cyclinder division of the meet hosted by the Land Cruiser Club Pampanga Chapter and sanctioned by the Luzon 4x4 Federation. "It's a good thing, we use Delo Synthetic blend in our racing machines. Whatever the racing conditions are, it never fails to deliver," said the elder Bartolome. Team Caltex Delo also clinched the overall team championship.

Peñafrancia Sports Festival fires off

THE 7TH Bakbakan Amateur Boxing championship and the first Regatta National Invitational Open spiced up the 2004 Peñafrancia Sports Festival which fires off today in Naga City. Promising boxers in the region will vie for individual and team honors. A total of 1,000 rowers from 30 teams from 18 municipalities are taking part in regatta which features three different categories—team, doubles and singles. A cheering competition, trade and cultural activities will also spur the 10-day activities organized by the city government in cooperation with Naga City Sports Council headed by overall chair Pedro Lee.

Nat'l Arnis Encounter at DAR Gym

ARNIS Philippines (Arpi), the national sports association recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), will launch the National Arnis Encounter 2004 today at the DAR Gymnasium, Quezon City. Arpi president Raymond Velayo said more than 500 *arnisadores* from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will compete, surpassing the 200 participants last year. "We are in the process of forming the arnis national team, and this tournament is very important in selecting the national team members," said Velayo. Marco Festejo and Janice Rendon emerged as MVP for men and women's division, respectively, last year. For inquiries, contact the Arpi secretariat at 725-4859.

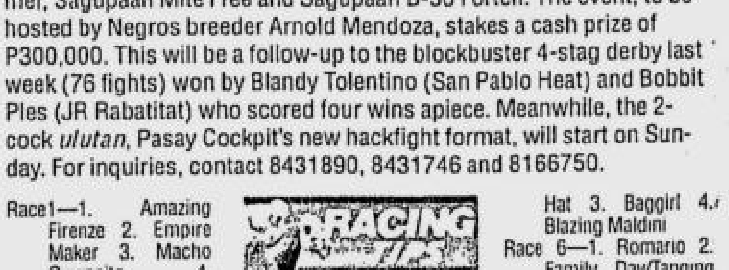
4-stag derby features 60 matches

MORE than 60 matches will be featured in tonight's 4-stag derby at the fully air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. The event, to be hosted by Negros breeder Arnold Mendoza, stakes a cash prize of P300,000. This will be a follow-up to the blockbuster 4-stag derby last week (76 fights) won by Blandy Tolentino (San Pablo Heat) and Bobbit Ples (JR Rabatitat) who scored four wins apiece. Meanwhile, the 2-cock *ulutan*, Pasay Cockpit's new hackfight format, will start on Sunday. For inquiries, contact 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750.

RACING

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Amazing Firenze 2. Empire Maker 3. Macho Guwapito 4. Odyssey's Ruler
Race 2—1. Laughing Matter 2. Terminator 3. Dato's Pride 4. Sambat 5. Irish Star/Allusion
Race 3—1. Portal Dancer 2. Privately Owned 3. Queen of D Jungle
Race 4—1. Gliding Speed 2. King Lance 3. Smart Harry 5. Best of Circle 6. Ginja
Race 5—1. Maria Maikling 2. Wear the Fox Hat 3. Baggirl 4. Blazing Maldini
Race 6—1. Romario 2. Family Day/Tanging Ikaw 3. Iron Will 4. Native Talent 5. Pride of Cebu
Race 7—1. Dot Com 2. Against All 3. Gold Prosperity 4. Gold and Dollar
Race 8—1. Windlass 2. Advance Party 3. Aya's Star 4. Going Free
Race 9—1. Imus Emperor 2. D Pen Traveller 3. Maniaman 4. Voltes May 5. Best Lover 6. Sweet Inspiration



SAMSUNG TOUR WINNERS: Club president Bong Magno (right), director Milton Liu (second from left) and event organizer Boy Blue Ocampo (left) join the division winners of the recent Samsung Amateur Tour at the Apo Golf Club course in Davao. They are, front row from left, Chihiro Ikeda (ladies Class A), Imee Garcia (ladies Class B) and Jay Bayron (championship). Back row, from left, Glenn Ching (Class C), Dino Yap (Class B), Junjun Grandeza (Class A) and Eloy Olmoguez (Class D).

Davenport marches to semis vs Russian

Federer-Agassi showdown stalled by rain

NEW YORK—By the time Lindsay Davenport got on the court after a long, rainy day at the US Open, there were only about 100 fans in the stands.

Some of those spectators were wandering around too, and that caused her more trouble than Shinobu Asagoe of Japan.

"They just kind of kept coming right when I was in the line of my toss," she said. "I just asked if they could maybe bring some more ushers out, even if there weren't that many people."

Davenport overwhelmed Asagoe, 6-1, 6-1, Wednesday to reach the semifinals. She'll face No. 9 Svetlana Kuznetsova, who defeated No. 14 fellow Russian Nadia Petrova, 7-6 (4), 6-3. Davenport and Kuznetsova were lucky to finish.

The glamour match of the tournament so far, two-time Open champion Andre Agassi versus No. 1 Roger Federer of Switzerland, was suspended because of showers. Federer led, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5, and the match will resume Thursday afternoon, provided more rain does not interfere.

Arthur Ashe Stadium was about one-third full for Agassi-Federer. British No. 5 Tim Henman led No. 22 Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia, 6-1, 7-5, 4-5, when it was suspended—about a dozen fans were there for the warm-up.

Davenport got to the National Tennis Center about two hours before she was scheduled to play at Ashe. But with no chance to get started in the steady rain, she passed the time trying to sleep, doing crossword puzzles, visiting with her family and eating.

LINDSAY Davenport escapes the rain delay to advance to the semifinals. AP

"It's not a total shock to tennis players that we have to go through this," she said. "At this point, I just didn't care if there were 100 people there or 10 people, I just wanted to play."

Davenport wound up starting at 9,645-seat Louis Armstrong Stadium at 7:29 p.m. local time. By then, organizers had shifted the schedule so all four matches could be played at the same time.

Only two dozen fans headed over to outer Court 11 for the start of the quarterfinal between Kuznetsova and Petrova. It was so empty that when Petrova slapped the strings of her racket after a missed shot, it sounded like a violin—it was that easy to hear.

The match was originally supposed to be played at Armstrong. Instead, the setting looked more like a recreation league tournament, and that was fine by Kuznetsova.

"It was important for me to play on a small court so I don't get nervous," she said.

The other women's semifinal will also be United States versus Russia: No. 8 Jennifer Capriati takes on No. 6 Elena Dementieva in the other matchup.

Davenport has won 22 matches in a row since losing to Russia's Maria Sharapova in the semifinals at Wimbledon. She's already won three Grand Slam titles, including the 1998 Open.

"I'm in a great position. I've done everything that I could possibly do to be ready to play here and do well," she said.

Agassi got off to a slow start, and had trouble handling Federer's serve in the first set. But Agassi came back to win 12 of 13 points early in the second set for a 3-0 lead and went on to close it out, drawing a standing ovation. *AP*

ANDY Roddick and tennis great John McEnroe find a good way to pass time during the rain delay. The two put on an impromptu show of mock baseball for a handful of spectators. REUTERS

La Salle routs . . .

From page A25

In junior play, the Junior Fighting Maroons kept second spot at 8-3 after blasting the Bullpups, 68-56.

The scores:

Second game (Srs)

UP 64—David 13, Santos 12, Almeda 11, Cervantes 10, Ibañes 7, Cruz 6, Epres 5, Gomez 0, Robin 0, Bienvenida 0, Ortega 0, Ferrer 0.

NU 55—Miclat 12, Estolano 9, Malcontento 7, Balijon 6, Asoro 6, Mollena 4, King 4, Garcia 3, Mendoza 2, Malagueño 2, Moradas 0, D. Catamora 0, Fernandez 0, C. Catamora 0.

Quarters: 18-15, 36-30, 48-42, 64-55.

Third game (Srs)

LA SALLE 81—Cardona 20, Casio 14, Tang 12, Araña 10, Gaco 7, Maierhoffer 6, Cabatu 6, Benitez 4, Gavino 2, Walsham 0, Gatchalian 0, Galinato 0, Cua 0, Aquino 0.

UE 61—Hubalde 14, Arellano 9, Saguindel 7, Canaleta 7, Palaganas 6, Labagala 6, Pradas 6, Acuña 3, Tamayo 2, Dizon 2, Napo 2, Tabaquero 0, Suguitan 0.

Quarters: 22-11, 42-32, 65-45, 81-61.

Cash-strapped SEAG needs a 'Peter Ueberroth'

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I FIND nothing wrong with President Macapagal-Arroyo appointing former Tourism Secretary Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan chair of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee although he has no background in sports.

One does not need a background in sports to be able to run a successful sporting event. What the cash-strapped SEAG needs is a topnotch marketing man, a corporate wizard like, for example, Peter Ueberroth who guided the 1984 Los Angeles Games into becoming one of the most successful and profitable Olympics in modern history. Ueberroth achieved success by reducing the number of corporate sponsors from 628 in the previous Games in Montreal to only 34 official sponsors, 64 suppliers and 65 licensees in LA. Less, giving more, was the philosophy.

As you can see, one does not need a background in sports to be able to achieve success in organizing sporting events. French nobleman Baron Pierre de Coubertin was not even an athlete of note when he revived the Olympic Games, but he was able to convince the Greek government to host the first successful modern Olympics in Athens on April 6, 1896.

In hosting next year's SEA Games, the grim reality facing Philsoc is that it simply must swim or sink due to the prevailing fiscal crisis. The 2005 SEA Games is becoming even more expensive to stage and there just is not enough money to cover the cost of running the SEAG estimated at P1 billion.

However, Pagdanganan, a marketing man and a successful manager at Unilever, assured the public that the SEA Games will go on despite speculations that the country might cancel the affair due to lack of funds.

"There's no cancelation," said the Philsoc chair, adding that members of his committee are set to meet on Oct. 10-12 to tackle the cost-cutting measures, among them shortening the competition schedule from 10 to 8 days and reducing the number of events.

***

FOR THE RECORD. When President Manuel L. Quezon headed the Philippine Olympic Committee from 1916 to 1935, the country produced four Olympic bronze medalists beginning with swimmer Teofilo Yldefonso, who won third place in Amsterdam in 1928. Under Jorge Vargas, the POC president from 1936 to 1955, the Philippines won her fifth Olympic medal, also a bronze, in the 1936 Berlin Games courtesy of 400-meter hurdler Miguel White. In the 1964 Tokyo Games, Anthony Villanueva won RP's sixth Olympic medal, a silver in boxing, under Antonio de las Alas, who headed the POC (1956-1968). POC president Jose Sering (1985-1992) contributed the seventh and eighth Olympic medals, both boxing bronzes, won by Leopoldo Serantes in the 1988 Seoul Olympics and Roel Velasco in the 1992 Barcelona Games, respectively. Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco gave the Philippines her ninth Olympic medal, silver (RP's second silver), in the 1996 Atlanta Games when Rene Cruz was the POC president. The Philippines did not win any Olympic medal under the POC presidency of Sen. Ambrosio Padilla (1972 Munich), Nereo Andolong (1976 Montreal), Michael Keon (1984 Los Angeles) and Celso Dayrit (2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens). The Philippines did not join the US-led boycott of the Moscow Games in 1980 when Julian Malonso was the POC president after he assumed the remaining months of the term of Andolong.

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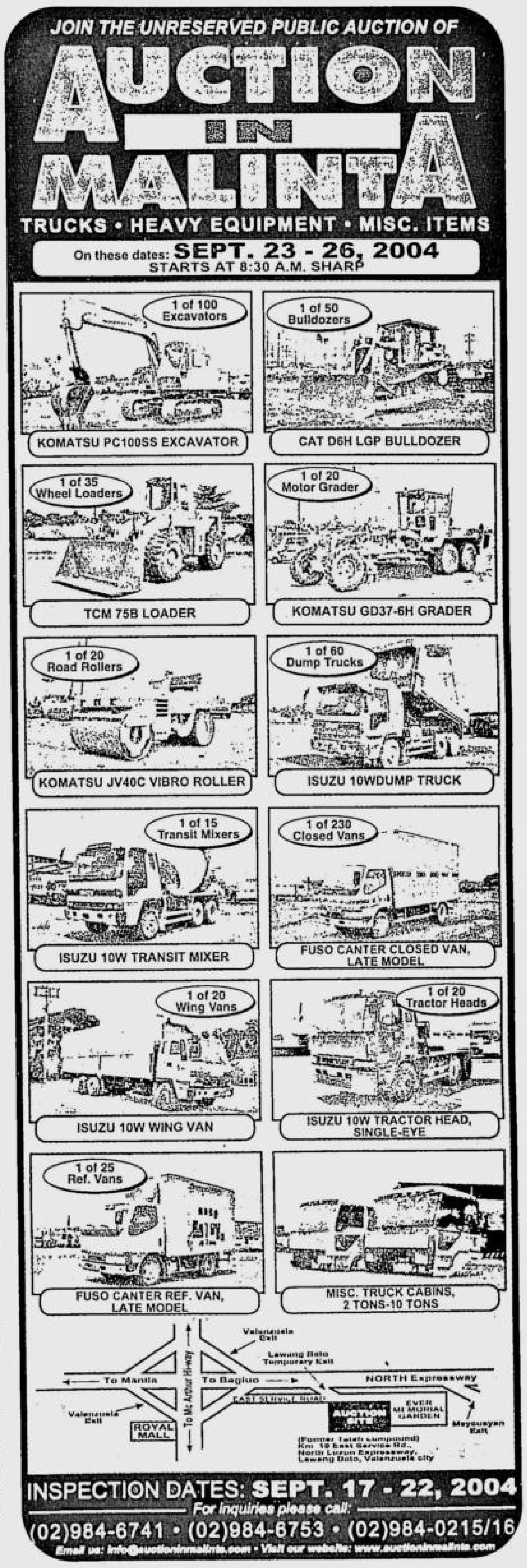

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The Bellevue Hotel sizzles with HBO's 'Sex & The City'

THE BELLEVUE Hotel was filled with funky *fashionistas*, dashing gentlemen and alluring ladies at the recent HBO "Sex & the City: A Final Toast" high lifestyle extravaganza. Hosted by lifestyle columnist Johnny Litton together with stylish beauty expert Chechel Joson, the glitzy event was organized for Asian Vision Cable Holdings (AVCH) subscribers and members of The Bellevue's Alabang's Finest.

Together with event partners AVCH, HBO and Rustan's, The Bellevue Hotel transformed its 20/20 Bar and Entertainment Center to a hip New York venue.

Highlights of this sensational evening included a special "Sex & the City" advance screening by HBO, a private viewing by Rustan's, a dating game with model Brad Turvey, a fashion presentation by Robbie Carmona, a raffle and "Sex & the City" look-alike contest. Bellevue's frontliners GM Cyndy Tan Jarabata, marketing services manager Ryan Chan and executive assistant manager Patrick Chan were there to welcome the lucky invitees which came from all over the metro.

EVENT emcee and society columnist Johnny Litton, HBO admin sales and marketing assistant Neo Yen Nee, The Bellevue general manager Cyndy Tan-Jarabata, HBO affiliate sales and training director Jacelyn Kek and Asian Vision Cable Holdings (AVCH) chief executive officer Paco Magsaysay were the figures behind Bellevue's successful 'Sex & The City: A Final Toast'.

This September at The Cafe and Thien Duong

TREAT yourself to a flavorful journey around the world with The Café's Daily Themed Buffet this September at Dusit Hotel Nikko. Taking center stage this month are Asian and Japanese selections, International Selections, Mediterranean, and Chinese. Seafood lovers will be delighted with the special lobster included in the Seafood Galore Buffet.

Enjoy "A la Minute Cooking" every Thursday, Friday and Sunday and get to choose from a variety of seafoods and meats to create your own gourmet meal. Available for lunch and dinner, Live Pasta Cooking Show also happens daily and adds excitement to your mid-day treats.

For the cold months ahead, Dusit Hotel Nikko's Thien Duong Vietnamese Restaurant invites you to warm yourself with its Long Live Noodles. Starting Sept. 15 until December, enjoy two kinds of noodles (egg and rice noodles) served in a big bowl complemented with three kinds of appetizers. Choose from Fresh or Fried Spring Rolls, Shrimp Toast with Sesame Seeds, Fried Minced Shrimp on Sugarcane or Grilled Pork Balls to start your meal. Priced at P510++, the Long Live Noodles with appetizer combo is available ala carte for lunch and dinner. For queries, call 867-3333.

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel's South Beach Diet

MOST people are tired of trying new diets for the reason that they just don't work! So what makes the South Beach Diet different? It's different in that it teaches a whole new way of life where you rely on the right carbohydrates and fats. This new way of eating still allows you to eat the right carbohydrates and fats thus taking away that feeling of deprivation one usually has while on a diet. Usually, when a person eats bad carbohydrates and fats they still feel famished, causing them to eat more thus gaining even more weight. In exchange for eating right, you become healthier and can enjoy an 8 to 13-pound weight loss in just two weeks!

The Diet, which was designed to work with your body safely and effectively, was created by Dr. Arthur Agatston, a highly respected cardiologist. This diet works in three phases, the first two for a specific timeframe and the third phase for life. With this new approach, counting calories do not exist, as well as weighing food portions. And you stop feeling deprived from eating good-tasting and satisfying food! You will actually be eating three, normal-sized meals each day plus two snacks. Now, you don't have to look far or stay home to follow that diet! With Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino's (WCCHC) meal plans, the hotel takes care of you and your diet.

Best of all, you will see amazing results in a short amount of time. With WCCHC's South Beach Diet, you can dine on mouth-watering foods like Grilled Chicken Skewer on Yogurt Sauce, Roast Beef Tenderloin, and even Fresh Fruit Ricotta Cream and still lose the weight!

So dine out now and still lose those calories at WCCHC. For more inquiries, call Waterfront Cebu City Hotel at (032) 232-6888 or Manila sales and reservations office at (02) 687-0888.

Events for Foundation Day

THIS September, Executive Plaza Hotel celebrates its Foundation Day. Catch these four exciting events to ever hit the entertainment scene in the Metropolis!

Avail yourself of the special anniversary rate of P1,600 for standard rooms with set breakfast for double or twin occupancy. This promo is valid for the entire September.

Wednesday nights has been chosen as the Ladies Night at the Rio Bar Cafe. As a special treat, it is giving a glass of wine free to all lady guests for every P250 and above food purchase at The Rio Bar Café.

Let the mellow music of Like Humans Do captivate you as it brings to your soul the soothing songs of our times. Be it pop, jazz, R&B and modern music, expect Like Humans Do to make your Wednesday nights enchanting and relaxing.

Gimmick experience will never be the same, as Rio Bar Café and Restaurant presents its super hot bands guaranteed to make your Friday and Saturday nights fun-filled and exciting! Jam with the Cowboy and Kwerdas, as they bring the kind of music that speaks your lifestyle, your kind of swing!

For reservations, call 523-1000 loc. 304/ 525-8969, or e-mail sales@executiveplazahotel.com.

Fire, Spice and Ice at Bocarinos

NEW WORLD Renaissance Hotel's stylish creative cuisine resto Bocarinos continues its 2004 Bocarinos Wine Series with its next event entitled "Fire, Spice & Ice" on Wednesday, Sept. 29, 6:30 p.m.

"Fire, Spice & Ice" differs from the previous wine dinners as it presents a more casual way to enjoy culinary masterpieces prepared by the hotel's master chefs headed by Executive Chef Colin Healy, complemented by the finest wines from New Zealand, Australia, South America, and the United States. An array of "food stations" categorized as "Fire"," Spice", "Ice", and "Flavored Ice", will be situated around the restaurant providing the opportunity for guests to mingle. Sample Asian Blackened Lapu Lapu with Mint Labna, Vermont Bacon Corn Bread with Peppered Beef, and Lemon Grass Fish Skewers offered under the "Fire" food category. At the "Spice" station, try the Crispy Spiced Lamb, Honey Spiced Duck, Roasted Salmon & Sauce Romesco, or the Slow Cooked Pork & Chinese Spiced Bean Sauce. The "Ice" corner will prove to be interesting as it offers Roasted Beetroot, Feta, and Apricot Salad; Ceviche of Scallops & Fennel, among others. To cap the dinner, drop by the "Flavored Ice" station and enjoy Caramel Balsamic Ice; Lemon & Yoghurt Ice, Lavender, & Thyme Ice; Chocolate & Star Anise Ice, Iced Rice Pudding; and Exotic Native Fruits & Chilli Chocolate.

The perfect accompaniment for the dinner menu is a wonderful wine selection that includes House of Nobilo Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand; Tigress Pinot Noir from Tasmania; Houghton White Burgundy and Banrock Station White Shiraz both from Australia; Veramonte Cabernet Sauvignon from Chile; Ravenswood zinfandel from California, and other fine wines choices.

"Fire Spice & Ice" is held in partnership with winedirect and is at P1,500 net per person. Only limited seats are available. For reservations and inquiries, call the New World Renaissance Hotel at 8116888.

Book on Nepomucenos launched

"A COFRADIA of Two: Oral History on the Family Life and Lay Religiosity of Juan D. Nepomuceno and Teresa G. Nepomuceno of Angeles, Pampanga," published by the Center for Kapampangan Studies, will be launched tomorrow, Sept. 11, at the Holy Angel University (HAU) in Angeles City.

The first book of its kind in Kapampangan letters, "A Cofradia of Two" is authored by Erlita P. Mendoza of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Center for Intercultural Studies and was prepared under a research grant from HAU. It documents and highlights the legacy of Juan and Teresa Nepomuceno (c1892-1973) as Kapampangan parents who embodied and instilled in their children the sterling values of the Filipino family. They are presented as citizen-leaders who helped build the first city of the Kapampangan region, and Catholic lay servants who spent their years in faithful service to their *cabalens* and the Roman Catholic Church.

With the retrospective accounts of their eight surviving children and two daughters-in-law, the book presents how the Nepomucenos' marriage and partnership established the country's first Catholic school run by laypersons; the region's first crystal ice plant and electric plant; the city's premier subdivision that reconfigured Angeles' layout and social strata; a shopping district that redefined Kapampangan tastes and lifestyles; and a home-based soft drink factory that crossed swords with the country's largest beverage company.

"The Juan D. Nepomucenos are one of those larger-than-life Filipino dynasties, who strengthen their respective regions and facilitate decentralized power from the national capital," Center director Robby Tantingco said. "Juan and Teresa Nepomuceno were unique and charismatic characters who also represented the best qualities of Kapampangan parenthood and community leadership."

Ambeth Ocampo, chair of the National Historical Institute, wrote the book's foreword. Dr. Luciano P.R. Santiago, eminent genealogist, cultural and Philippine Church historian, will present a review of the book during the launching.

'BKK' ends at Luneta

ROBIN Padilla and Judy Ann Santos will be at the Rizal (Luneta) Park today to enact the final scenes, live on national television, of "Basta't Kasama Kita," one of today's highest-rating teleseryes.

This is the first time in Philippine TV history that a soap opera is airing a live finale.

ABS-CBN is invit-

'BKK' A30

movietime at SM CINEMA

NOW SHOWING

Central

	SM MEGAMALL 6331901	SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749	SM CITY MANILA 5239240
1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	CONNIE AND CARLA	THE TERMINAL
2	DODGEBALL	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	THE NOTEBOOK
3	THE TERMINAL	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4	GODSEND	ANACONDAS	TOOLBOX MURDERS
5	TOOLBOX MURDERS	GODSEND	DODGEBALL
6	CINE EUROPA	THE NOTEBOOK	ANACONDAS
7	HAUNTED SPIRIT 2	DODGEBALL	GODSEND
8	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	HAUNTED SPIRIT 2
9	THE NOTEBOOK	THE TERMINAL	ANACONDAS
10	ANACONDAS	COLLATERAL	I, ROBOT
11	CONNIE AND CARLA	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
12	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	TOOLBOX MURDERS	LAWS OF ATTRACTION

	SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452	SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416	SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302
1	TOOLBOX MURDERS	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	ANACONDAS
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	TOOLBOX MURDERS	GODSEND
3	HAUNTED SPIRIT 2	THE TERMINAL	THE TERMINAL
4	THE NOTEBOOK	GODSEND	TOOLBOX MURDERS
5	THE TERMINAL	ANACONDAS	
6	DODGEBALL	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	
7	ANACONDAS	DODGEBALL	
8	GODSEND	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	
9		THE NOTEBOOK	
10		COLLATERAL	

North

	SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17	SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015	SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505
1	THE ALAMO	ANACONDAS	ANACONDAS
2	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	CONNIE AND CARLA	DEAD PEOPLE
3	ANACONDAS	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2	THE TERMINAL
4	THUNDERBIRDS	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	THUNDERBIRDS
5		LAWS OF ATTRACTION	
6		THUNDERBIRDS	

South

	SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8066888	SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055	SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868
1	DODGEBALL	ANACONDAS	DODGEBALL
2	PRINCESS DIARIES	THE TERMINAL	THE TERMINAL
3	ANACONDAS	DODGEBALL	ANACONDAS
4	THE TERMINAL	GODSEND	TOOLBOX MURDERS
5	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2		ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR		PRINCESS DIARIES 2
7	TOOLBOX MURDERS		THE NOTEBOOK
8	GODSEND		NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9	THE NOTEBOOK		
10	HAUNTED SPIRIT 2		

	SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975
1	DODGEBALL
2	THE TERMINAL
3	ANACONDAS
4	GODSEND

	SM CITY DASMA (046) 4323201-04	SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80
1	THUNDERBIRDS	THUNDERBIRDS
2	THE TERMINAL	STEPFORD WIVES
3	TOOLBOX MURDERS	DEAD PEOPLE
4	ANACONDAS	ETERNAL SUNSHINE

Visayas & Mindanao

	SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876	SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422	SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998
1	SYLVIA	SUPER SIZE ME	ANACONDAS
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	RESERVED	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3	STEPFORD WIVES	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	THE ALAMO
4	CONNIE AND CARLA	CINDERELLA STORY	STEPFORD WIVES
5	CINDERELLA STORY	STEPFORD WIVES	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2	RING: THE SPIRAL	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
7	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	RESERVED	
8	ANACONDAS	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	

	SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884
1	WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
2	A WHOLE 10 YARDS
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4	THUNDERBIRDS

THE PODIUM
CINEMA

1
THE TERMINAL
11:50 FS/12:20 MF/3:00/5:40/8:20/10:30 LFS/10:50 LMF/1:10 END

2
DODGEBALL
11:25 FS/11:55 MF/2:05/4:15/6:25/8:35/10:15 LFS/10:45 LMF/12:25 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
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DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

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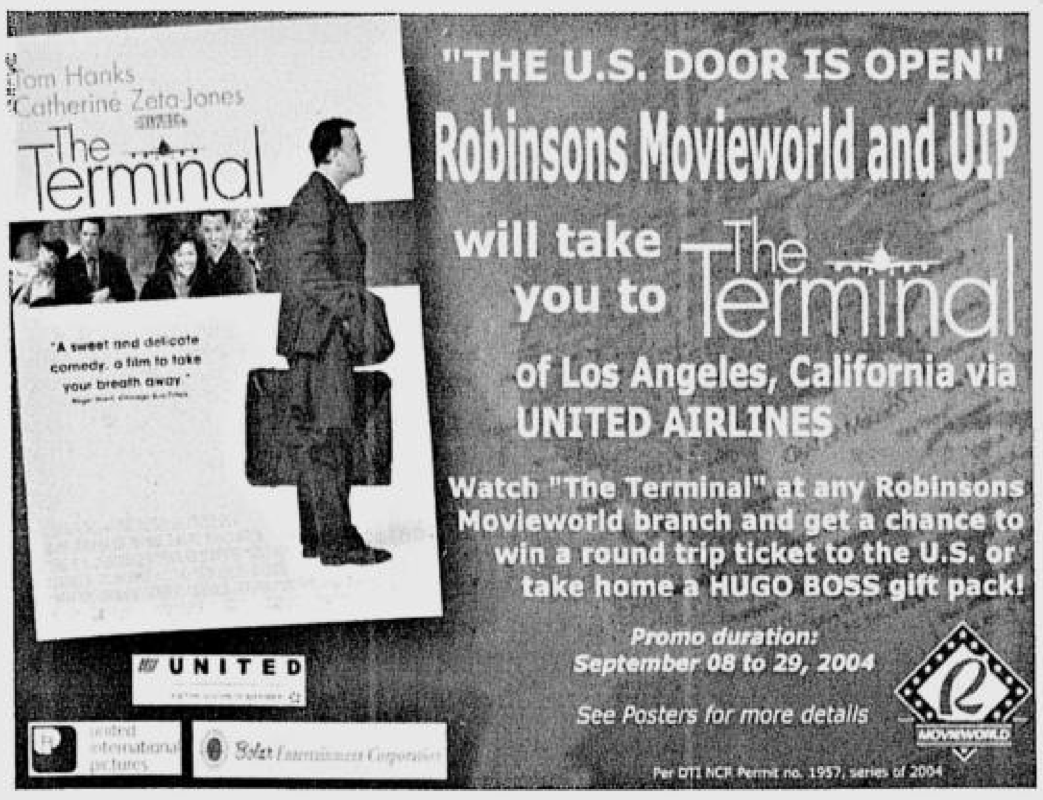
PORTUGAL • SPAIN SWEDEN • UNITED KINGDOM

SMART EPSON

SEPTEMBER 10 • FRIDAY

PORTUGAL	SWEDEN	UK
SWEET NIGHTMARE	DEADLINE	YOUNG ADAM
PG-13	R-13	R-18
4:30pm	7:00pm	9:30pm

Movies are subject to change without prior notice


Tom Hanks
Catherine Zeta-Jones
The Terminal
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Solar Entertainment Corporation
MOVIEWORLD

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September 08 to 29, 2004

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Per DTI NCR Permit no. 1957, series of 2004

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK
PG-13 / FS: 12:30PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM, LMF: 8:55PM

2 (DOLBY) THE TERMINAL
GP / FS: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM LMF: 9:40PM

3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM LMF: 9:50PM

4 (DOLBY) DODGEBALL
PG-13 / FS: 12:10PM, 2:25PM, 4:40PM, 6:55PM LMF: 9:10PM

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) ANACONDAS
PG-13 / FS: 12:50PM, 3:05PM, 5:20PM, 7:35PM, LMF: 9:50PM

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238

1. (DOLBY)	TOOLBOX MURDER
2.	ANACONDAS
3.	TAG-INIT
4.	THE TERMINAL
5.	DODGEBALL

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	
2	MEDALLION
3	NAGDADALAGA
4 (SDDS)	TAG-INIT
5	THE TERMINAL
6 (DOLBY)	DODGEBALL
7 (DTS)	ANACONDAS
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274

1	THE TERMINAL
2	ANACONDAS
3	TAG-INIT

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	TAG-INIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	ANACONDAS
5	GODSEND

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	YOUNG VIRGIN
2	TAG-INIT
3	TOOLBOX MURDER
4	GODSEND
5 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
6	DODGEBALL

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
2	BOLD AFFAIR

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	GODSEND
2 (SDDS)	ANACONDAS
3 (DTS)	THE TERMINAL
4 GOLD (DTS)	DODGEBALL
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE NOTEBOOK
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE TERMINAL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
8 [illegible]	TOOLBOX MURDER
9 [illegible]	HAUNTED SPIRIT
10 [illegible]	PRINCESS DIARIES 2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242, 8281 / 8397

3 (Dolby)	ANACONDAS
4 (SDDS)	THE TERMINAL
5 (DTS)	DODGEBALL
6 (Dolby)	TOOL BOX MURDER
7 (Dolby)	GODSEND

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ANACONDAS
2	DODGEBALL
3	TAG-INIT
4	TOOLBOX MURDER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
2	OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
3 (DTS EX)	OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004
4	OPENS SEPTEMBER 16, 2004

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	ELLA ENCHANTED
2	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
4 (DTS)	STEPFORD WIVES

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	DEAD PEOPLE
2	WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP-2)
3 (DOLBY)	CONNIE & CARLA
4 (DTS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE CINDERELLA STORY
2	STEPFORD WIVES

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	THE TERMINAL
2 (DOLBY)	THE NOTEBOOK
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
4 (DOLBY)	DODGEBALL

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	STEPFORD WIVES
2	THE TERMINAL
3 (DTS)	ANACONDAS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	STEPFORD WIVES
2 (DTS)	THE TERMINAL
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
4	RING-0

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BULLETS
2 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
3 (DTS)	THE TERMINAL
4	STEPFORD WIVES

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP-2)
2	CHRONICLE OF RIDDICK
3 (DOLBY)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	EVE
2	ETERNAL SUNSHINE
3 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES-2
4 (DTS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320

1	ANACONDAS
2	PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	WILD BUTTERFLY
2	SUGAT
3	TAG-INIT
4 (DTS)	ETERNAL SUNSHINE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
2	HAMOG
3 (DTS)	THE TERMINAL
4	STEPFORD WIVES
5	DARK DANCER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	SPIRAL
2	THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DTS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY)	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SURUM
2	DODGEBALL
3	HAMOG
4	PRINCESS DIARIES-2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	TAG-INIT
2	ANACONDAS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Opposite direction

From page A31

singing competitions, everything else is icing on the cake!

In-flight entertainment

RELATIVELY recent film releases are on view this month on Singapore Airlines' flights. Topping the list of airborne viewing treats are "Troy," "The Stepford Wives" and "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban."

Other films on view are "Kill Bill Vol. 2," "Van Helsing," "Godsend" with **Robert de Niro**, "The Day After Tomorrow" and "Secret Window" with **Johnny Depp**.

Incidentally, that last movie has yet to open its run in local theaters.

Aside from in-flight movies, the airline offers diverse entertainment options like video games, TV series, music, documentaries, and news, sports and lifestyle shows.

'On A Higher Note'

SINGING standout **Sheryn Regis** is starring in her first major concert, "Sheryn Regis on a Higher Note" at the Music Museum on Sept. 24 and 25. Her guests include **Ogie Alcasid**, The Company, Akafellas, **Luke Mejares**, **Divo Bayer**, Gloc 9 and **Johann Escanan**. Call 891-9999 or 413-9162.

Aside from local concerts, Sheryn has been performing in shows in the States and Dubai. Some months ago, she was invited to sing for top Singapore officials at a charity gala organized by the Singaporean government to raise funds to develop the skills of Filipino workers there.

And, towards the end of the year, Sheryn will once again go on a performance tour of the US, and Japan. Clearly, this diminutive but big-voiced talent is going places—literally!

'BKK' ends...

From page A29

ing fans to join in the "Basta't Kasama Kita" motorcade, which will weave its way through Metro Manila's streets this afternoon and end at Luneta Park for the final scenes.

The network will put up a special widescreen projection system in the park so that the crowd will be able to watch the "Basta't Kasama Kita" finale in its entirety.

Luneta is a special place for "Basta't Kasama Kita" fans, as the teleserye's characters Ambet (Robin) and Princess (Judy Ann) lived through the highlights of their relationship at the national park. It was where they first met as children, where they met again as adults, and where their relationship took on a romantic note.

From January to August, "Basta't Kasama Kita" averaged a 36.5 percent rating. The figures reached a high of 41.30 percent on Aug. 12.

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA - SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
Tag-Init
Anacondas
God Send

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
Young Virgins
Tag-Init
Toolbox Murder
God Send
Anacondas
Dodgeball

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
Princess Diaries 2
Thunder Birds

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For every 3 tickets you buy at any Star Group of Cinemas
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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 THE NOTEBOOK
FS : 12:30PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM, LMF: 8.55PM
MTRCB Rating : (PG - 13)

2 THE TERMINAL
FS : 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM
LMF: 9:40PM
MTRCB Rating : (GP)

3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
FS : 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM
LMF: 9:50PM
MTRCB Rating : (GP)

4 DODGEBALL
FS : 12:10PM, 2:25PM, 4:40PM, 6:55PM
LMF: 9:10PM
MTRCB Rating : (PG - 13)

PREMIERE THEATRE ANACONDAS
FS. 12:50PM, 3:05PM, 5:20PM, 7:35PM, LMF: 9:50PM
MTRCB Rating : (PG - 13)

For more information please call 633-2227 / 633-7861 loc. 171
Shangri-La Plaza

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX
3 Dolby ANACONDAS
12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
4 SDDS THE TERMINAL
11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
5 dts DODGEBALL
12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:10 pm
6 Dolby TOOLBOX MURDERS
12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:10 pm
7 Dolby GODSEND
12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:10 pm

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN TODAY 4 PM to 10 PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

Sep 10	NCAA : FINAL 4 - GAMES
Sep 11	ATENEO vs F E U
Sep12	UAAP: CHEERING COMPETITION
Sep15	JOHN MAXWELL in MANILA
Sep17	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
THE TERMINAL
10:50, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
GP

CINEMA 2
DODGEBALL
11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

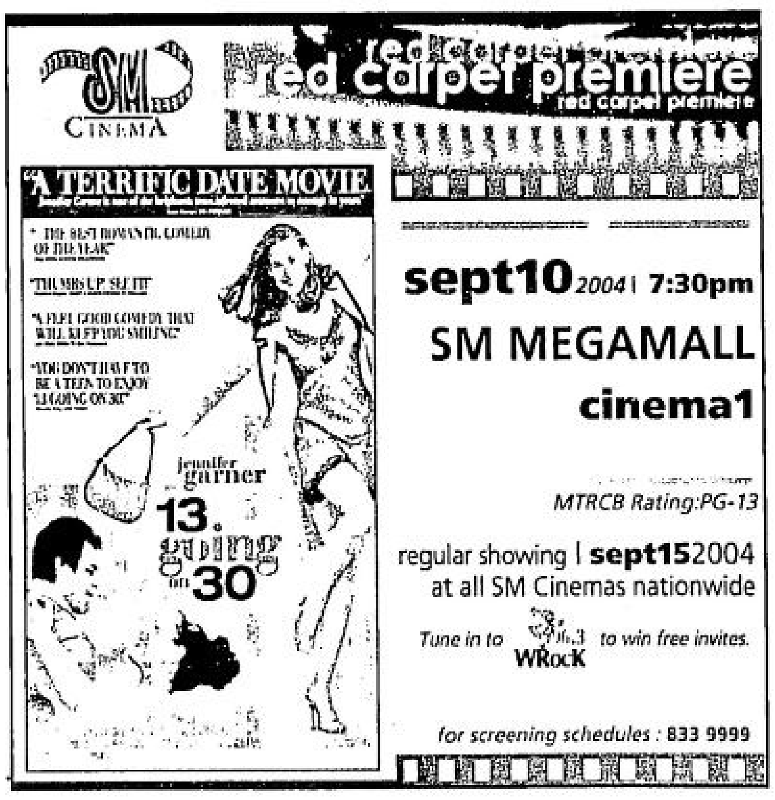
September 11, 2004	CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA	9PM
September 17 & 18	JAYA & ELIZABETH	9PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	TAG-INIT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	THE NOTEBOOK/THE TERMINAL/PRINCESS DIARIES 2/DODGEBALL
PREMIERE THEATRE	ANACONDAS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAT (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-7	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-8	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-12	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-14	JANDARA
CINEMA-15	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



SM CINEMA
red carpet premiere
"A TERRIFIC DATE MOVIE"
"THE BEST ROMANTIC COMEDY OF THE YEAR"
"THUMBS UP! SEE IT!"
"A FEEL GOOD COMEDY THAT WILL KEEP YOU SMILING"
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TEEN TO ENJOY '13 GOING ON 30'"
jennifer garner
13 going on 30

sept10 2004 | 7:30pm
SM MEGAMALL
cinema1
MTRCB Rating:PG-13
regular showing | sept15 2004
at all SM Cinemas nationwide
Tune in to WRocK to win free invites.
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A Comedy about a Second Chance at First Love!
'1ST LOVE' REWIND BEGINS SEPT 15
MTRCB PG-13
"A TERRIFIC DATE MOVIE. Jennifer Garner is one of the brightest, most talented actresses to emerge in years"
"...THE BEST ROMANTIC COMEDY OF THE YEAR!" Clay Smith, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD
"THUMBS UP! SEE IT!" Richard Roeper, EBERT & ROEPER/WBBM TV (Chicago)
"A FEEL GOOD COMEDY THAT WILL KEEP YOU SMILING." Jan Wahl, KRON TV (San Francisco)
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TEEN TO ENJOY '13 GOING ON 30.'" Claudia Puig, USA TODAY
jennifer garner
13 going on 30
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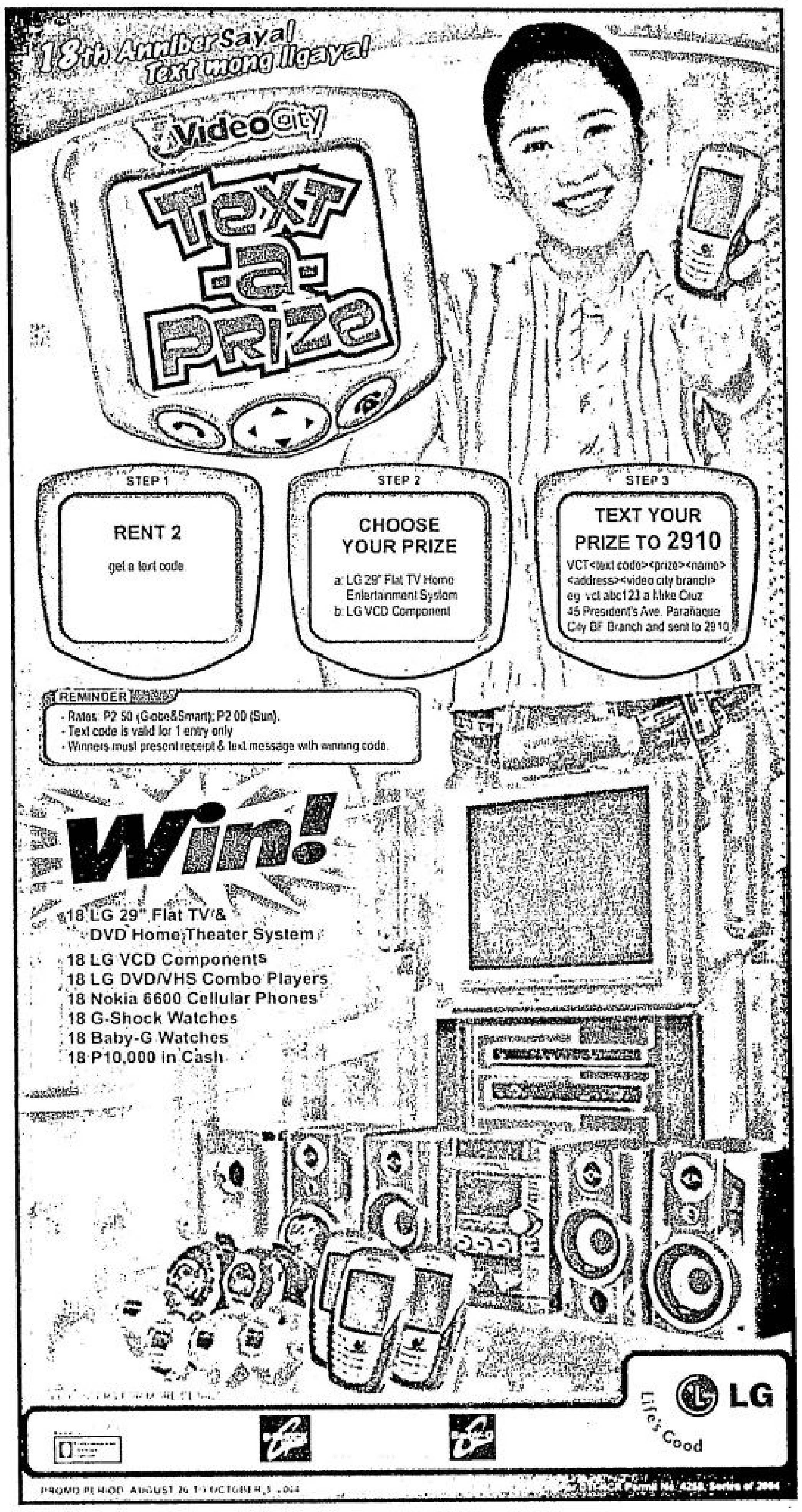

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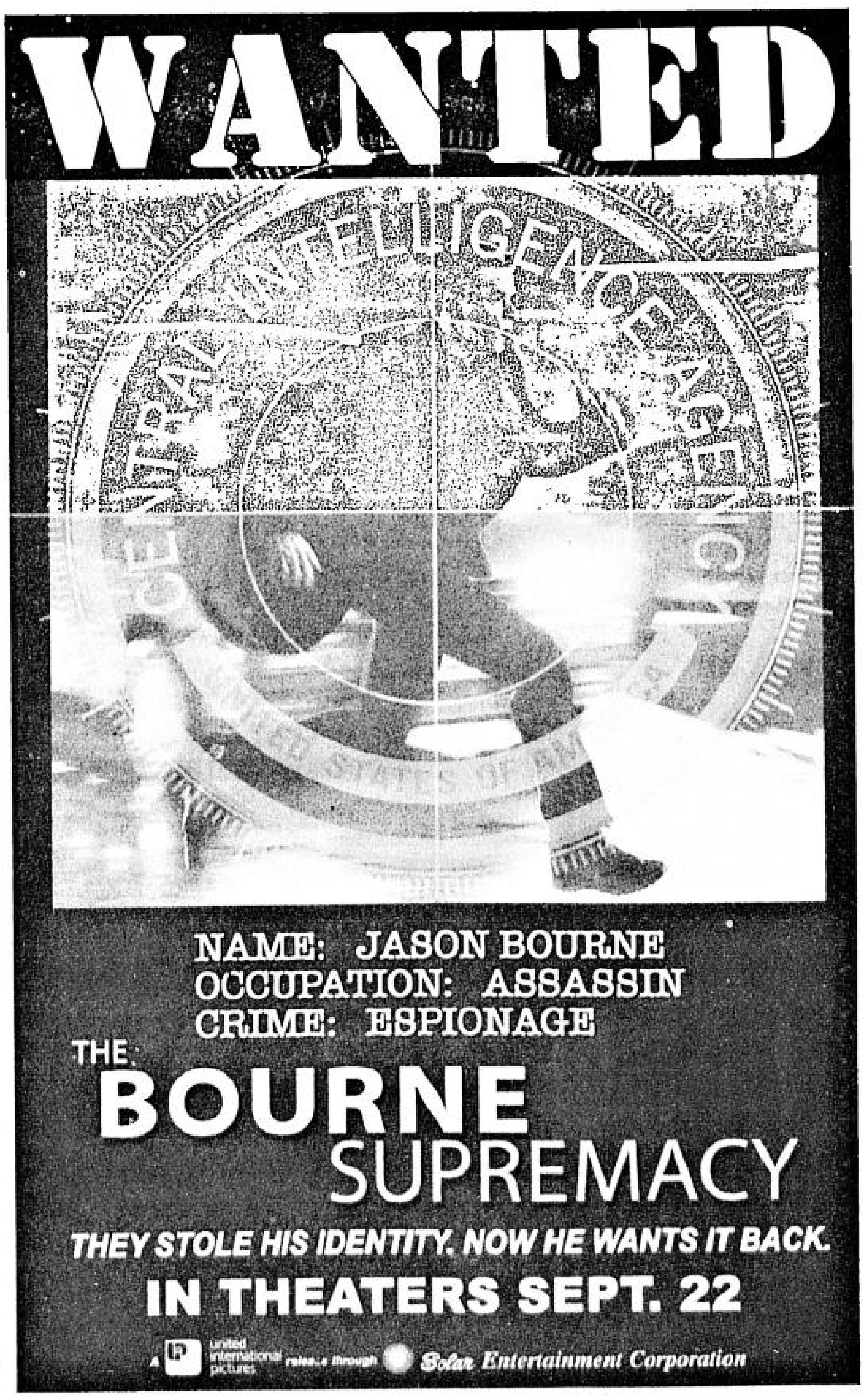

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3 DODGEBALL 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
4 GODSEND 10.45, 1:00, 3.15, 5:30, 7:45, 10.00
5 ANACONDAS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 THE NOTEBOOK 11:00, 1:45, 4.30, 7:15, 10:00
7 JANDARA 12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7.40, 10.00
8 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10.00
9 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2 12.20, 2.40, 5 00, 7:20, 9.40
10 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11.20, 2 00, 4:40, 7:20, 10.00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE TERMINAL 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50
2 DODGEBALL 10:30, 12:25, 2.20, 4:15, 6.10, 8 05, 10:00
3 GODSEND 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9.40
4 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 10.40, 12 40, 2 40, 4:40, 6 40, 8:30, 10:00
5 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2 10:30, 12 25, 2:20, 4.15, 6 10, 8 05, 10 00
6 ANACONDAS 10:40, 12.50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
7 THE NOTEBOOK 10:20, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
2 DODGEBALL 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30
3 THE TERMINAL 12:30, 3:10, 5 50, 8 25, 10 30
4 GODSEND 10:50, 12.50, 2 50, 4 50, 6.50, 9 00
5 ANACONDAS 10 20, 12:40, 3 00, 5.20, 7.40, 10:00
6 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 10.50, 12 50, 2:50, 4.50, 6.50, 9:00
7 THE NOTEBOOK 10.05, 12.50, 3.35, 6 20, 9:05
8 TAG-INIT 10:30, 12.30, 2.30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:3

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1 ANACONDAS 10:30, 12:35, 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55
2 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
3 DODGEBALL 11:45, 1.55, 4.05, 6.15, 8:30
4 JANDARA 10:30, 12 30, 2 30, 4 30, 6:30, 8:30
5 THE TERMINAL 12:10, 2 50, 5:30, 8:20
6 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 11:45, 1:55, 4 05, 6:15, 8 30
7 TAG-INIT 11:00, 1 00, 3 00, 5:00, 7:00, 9.00
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 11:00, 2 00, 3 00, 5 00, 7.00, 8.55

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 DODGEBALL
2 THE TERMINAL
3 ANACONDAS
4 TAG-INIT

CAINTA 240-4661
1 TAG-INIT
2 DODGEBALL
3 THE TERMINAL
4 ANACONDAS

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1 ANACONDAS
2 THE TERMINAL
3 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
4 SUPERSIZE ME
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LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
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2 DODGEBALL
3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
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1 THE TERMINAL
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3 ANACONDAS
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5 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS

STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270
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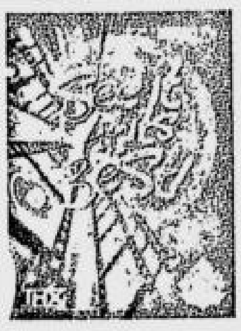
2 DEATH CURSE
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
5 ANACONDAS
6 CONNIE AND CARLA

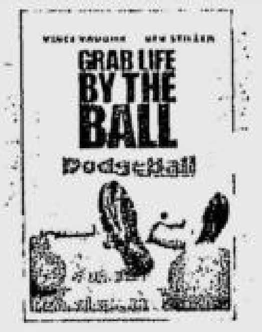
IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 ANACONDAS
2 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS
3 THE NOTEBOOK
4 DODGEBALL
5 TAG-INIT
6 THE TERMINAL

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 A CINDERELLA STORY
3 THE PRINCE AND ME
4 THUNDERBIRDS
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 KARELASYON

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 THE STEPFORD WIVES
3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 SUPERSIZE ME
5 THE VILLAGE
6 KARELASYON

The Terminal

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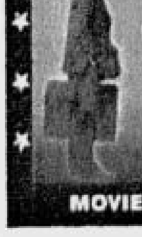

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THX 1 DODGEBALL	1 ANACONDAS	1 ANACONDAS 5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE TERMINAL 1 10, 3 40, 6 10, 8.40, 11 10	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 THE TERMINAL	2 DODGEBALL	2 GODSEND 6 DODGEBALL	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 DODGEBALL 1 10, 3 10, 5 10, 7 10, 9 10, 11 10	2 CONNIE & CARLA
3 ANACONDAS	3 THE TERMINAL	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 THE TERMINAL 12 30, 3 00, 5 30, 8 00, 10 30 7 THE NOTEBOOK	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 GODSEND 2 35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 05, 11.15	3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2: THE UNBORN
4 GODSEND	4 GODSEND	4 CONNIE & CARLA	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 ANACONDAS 2 30, 4 30, 6 30, 8 30, 10 30	4 ANACONDAS
5 THE NOTEBOOK		GB1 GREENBELT 1 1 THE TERMINAL 11:15, 1 45, 4 15, 6 45, 9 15 2 DODGEBALL 11:50, 1.50, 3 50, 5 50, 7 50, 9:50	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE NOTEBOOK 1 10, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 30	5 A CINDERELLA STORY

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Every ticket of THE TERMINAL purchased in Ayala Cinemas (Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 3 and Alabang Town Center) entitles the moviegoer to one (1) raffle entry

The ticket booth personnel will ask the customer to fill up the raffle coupon for every purchase of The Terminal movie ticket. Drop boxes will be placed at the cinema lobbies where moviegoers can drop the attached coupon.

Prizes include 1 round trip ticket from Manila to the U.S. valid until March 2005, 5 Hugo Boss gift packs and 10 Ayala Cinemas movie passes

Promo is valid from September 8 - 25, 2004 (from Mon - Sun) all screenings of The Terminal. Deadline for dropping of entries is on September 25.

Raffle Draw will be on September 30, 5.00pm at the Glorietta 4 cinema lobby.

Moviegoer may only win once. In case a moviegoer is drawn more than once, the higher prize will be given.

Winners will be notified through registered mail, newspaper ads and phone call.

Prizes can be claimed at the Ayala Cinemas office, 5th flr. Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. Winner must present a valid ID, notice received thru registered mail and raffle coupon.

Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the receipt of the notification shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.

All employees of Ayala Cinemas and its subsidiaries including their relatives up to the second degree in consanguinity affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Prize Tax, travel documents and other related expenses will be shouldered by the winner.

All prizes are not convertible to cash but are transferable.

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LoveMall!

Opposite direction

From page A32

telecast was less satisfying than the first.

Did the show present its best contestants in the first telecast as a good *buena mano*? Will it be downhill for the singing competition from hereon? Let's hope not!

Aside from being less vocally gifted than the first two female singers, last Saturday's **Reema** and **Princess** were also younger. Their youth was appealing, but their singing was less focused and secure, betraying their lack of experience.

Clearly, the show has its work cut out for itself to find contestants who are both young *and* vocally superior. But it has to succeed, otherwise the high singing standard it set two telecasts ago will quickly bite the dust, and the program's contenders will be as raw and gauche as many of those competing on its rival show, Channel 7's "Pinoy Pop Superstar."

Perhaps "Born Diva" should first give intensive singing lessons to its young finds before putting them on TV. After all, enhanced vocal prowess *is* more important than all the physical makeovers in the world.

Speaking of the so-called makeovers on "Born Diva," the show's two telecasts to date indicate that they're minor and perfunctory compared to those in its clear "inspiration," the American show, "The Swan."

On the US program, up to 14 different major plastic surgery procedures are resorted to per contestant, while "Born Diva" has thus far limited itself mainly to nose jobs and minimal breast enhancement.

This could be the reason why "Born Diva" pushes extreme makeovers in terms of hair, makeup and clothes so much, thus occasionally resulting in embarrassing excess.

If the surgical makeovers were extensive enough to truly transform the contestants' looks, less cosmetic and stylistic intervention would be required.

All told and everything considered, the first telecast of "Born Diva" left us relatively upbeat about the show's prospects, thanks mainly to the two contestants' singing prowess. Alas, the second telecast has diminished our enthusiasm for the program.

Let's hope that the TV singing tilt tries harder to live up to its claims in succeeding telecasts.

If it promises extensive makeovers, they should be forthcoming. On "The Swan," the contestants are given three long months to achieve their total transformation. How many weeks are allotted for the chanteuses on "Born Diva"?

Over and above all considerations, however, the show should make it a point to showcase *exceptional* singers, like it did in its first telecast. In

OPPOSITE/ A30

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino
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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Opposite direction

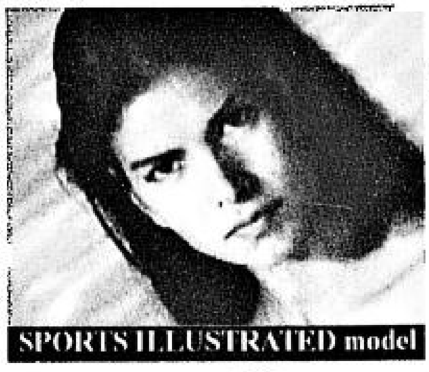
THE FIRST telecast of "Born Diva" on Channel 2 featured two good singers who were unfortunately given outlandish makeovers. Last Saturday, the singing tilt's second edition had a contrary combination: two so-so singers who were made to undergo less excessive makeovers. Win some, lose some—in the opposite direction!

Which is more important, singing ability or diva-esque looks? Clearly, the quality of singer's voice should carry the day, so the second

OPPOSITE/ A31

FROM THE MUMMY TO MINDHUNTERS

PATRICIA VELASQUEZ



SPORTS ILLUSTRATED model

Patricia Velasquez as FBI Agent Nichole Willis in Mindhunters

Shower scene w/ Christian Slater in Mindhunters

Patricia Velasquez, a model-turned-actress, was born on January 31, 1971. After graduating from San Vincente de Paul High School in 1987, she completed a year of college before being discovered and flying off to Milan, Italy, to begin her modeling career. Her exotic beauty bestowed her with enormous success in runway and print modeling for top designers, and in 1994, she appeared in **Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue Velasquez** made her acting debut in 1996 in **Le Jaguar**, but it wasn't until 1999 that she was really noticed with her role in the boxffice hit The Mummy. Then in 2001, she acted in the sequel to the film that had brought her acting breakthrough, The Mummy Returns.

Perhaps the best-known model to wear her Hispanic-Pilipino-American heritage proudly, Velásquez is devoted to many causes, including the advancement of and fair treatment of indigenous peoples.

As a child, she toured South Africa in a touring dance company, then lived in Paris and Mexico. At fifteen Velásquez entered college to study engineering, but her career took a huge turn when a modeling scout caught sight of her picture. She has been featured in the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue and appears regularly in Elle and Vogue.

Velásquez on rights: "As indigenous people, we must be proud. We have the same rights in the U.S. as anybody else. Instead of crying and getting upset about visa problems and having our families come join us, go fight for your rights. Make yourself a productive individual in the society."

Velasquez in back this year in Renny Harlin's MINDHUNTERS from Miramax. She plays an FBI agent. **Premise:** On a government owned high- tech island, the FBI has a training program for their psychological profiling division, called "Mindhunters", used to track down dangerous terrorists. The training goes horribly wrong, however, when a group of seven young agents discover that there is a brilliant killer on the island and is setting about slaying them.

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1	THE NOTEBOOK	11:40, 2:25, 5:10 7:55, 10:40	PG-13
2	DODGEBALL	10:40, 12:55, 3:10 5:25, 7:40, 10:20	PG 13
3	THE TERMINAL	11:10, 1:50, 4:30 7:10, 10:20	GP
4	ANACONDAS	11:05, 1:20, 3:35 5:50, 8:05, 10:20	PG 13

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GOD SEND PG13 1:00,3:16,5:30,7:45,10:00	CONNIE AND CARLA PG13 1:40,3:40,5:40,7:40,9:40	TERMINAL GP 12:10,2:45,5:20,7:55,10:30

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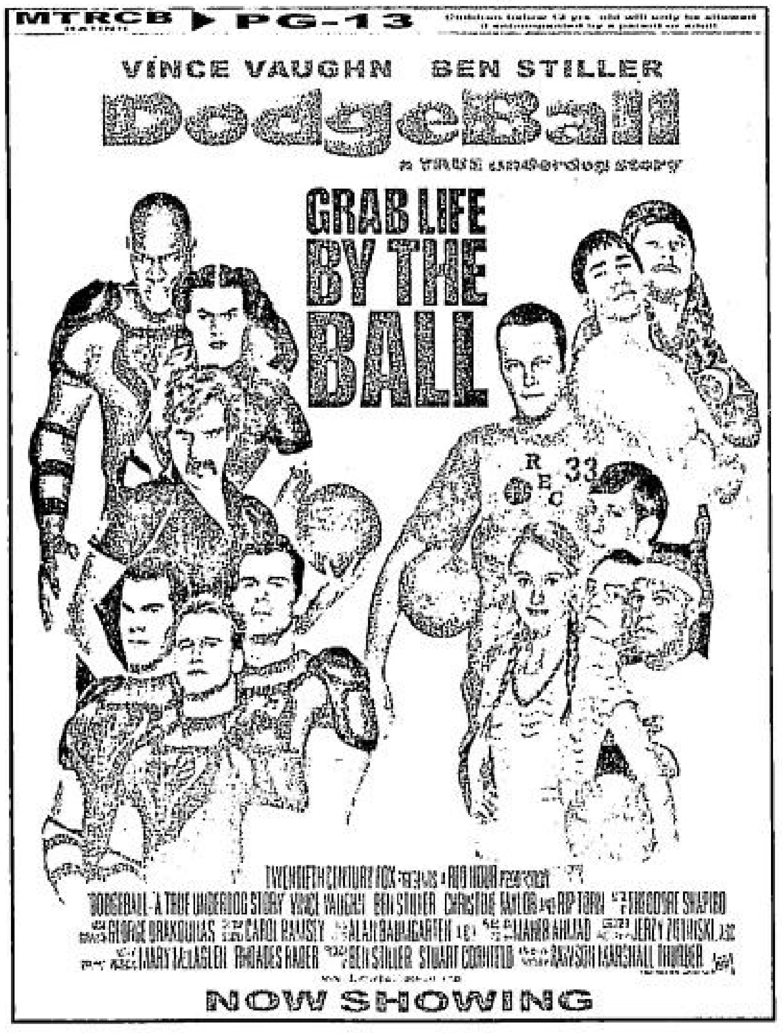
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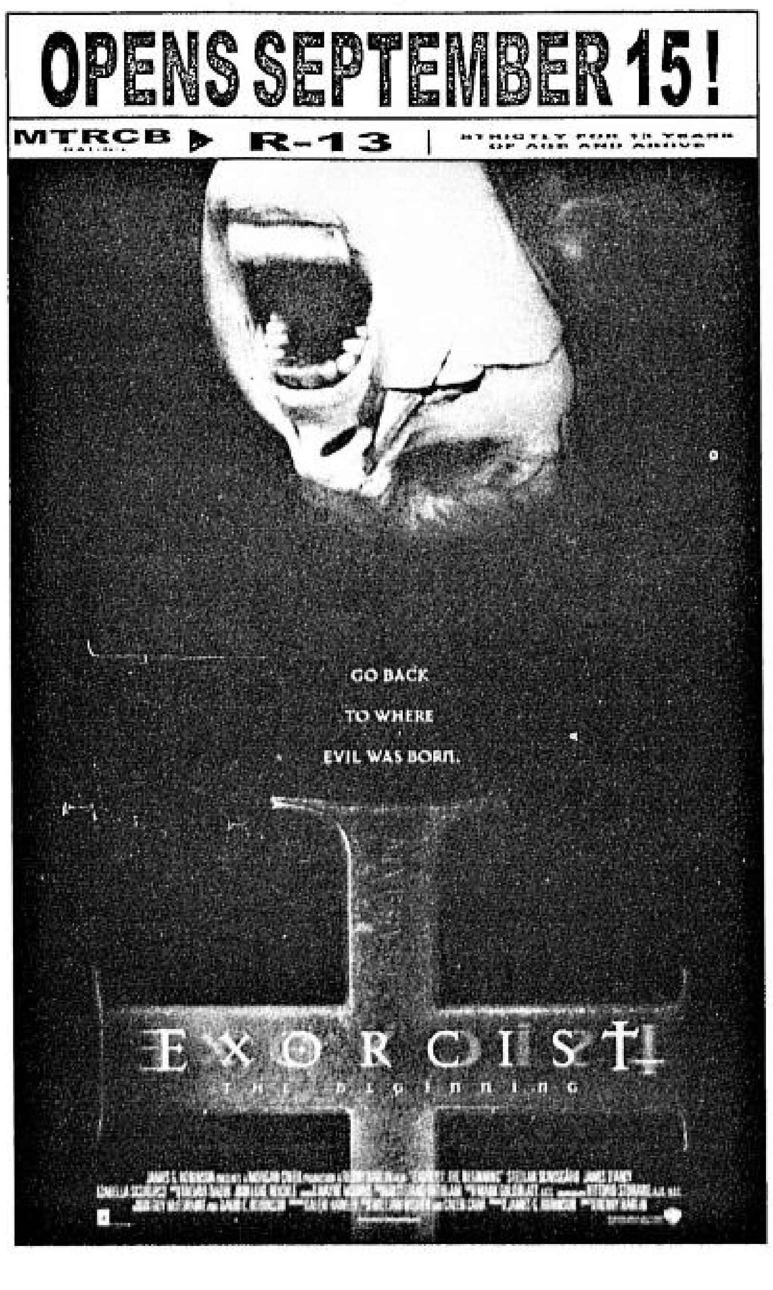
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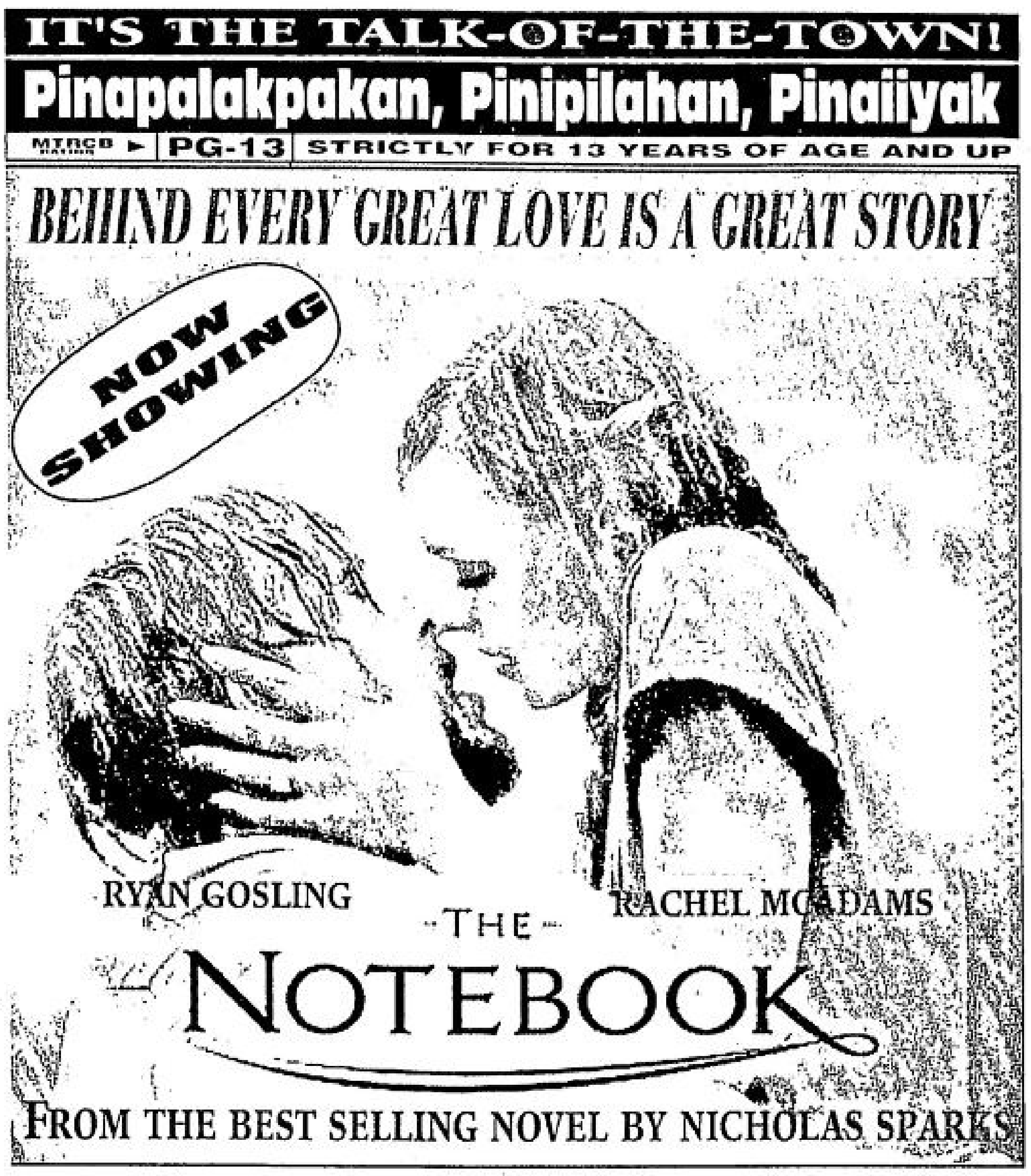
IT'S THE TALK-OF-THE-TOWN!
Pinapalakpakan, Pinipilahan, Pinaiiyak
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GREG KINNEAR
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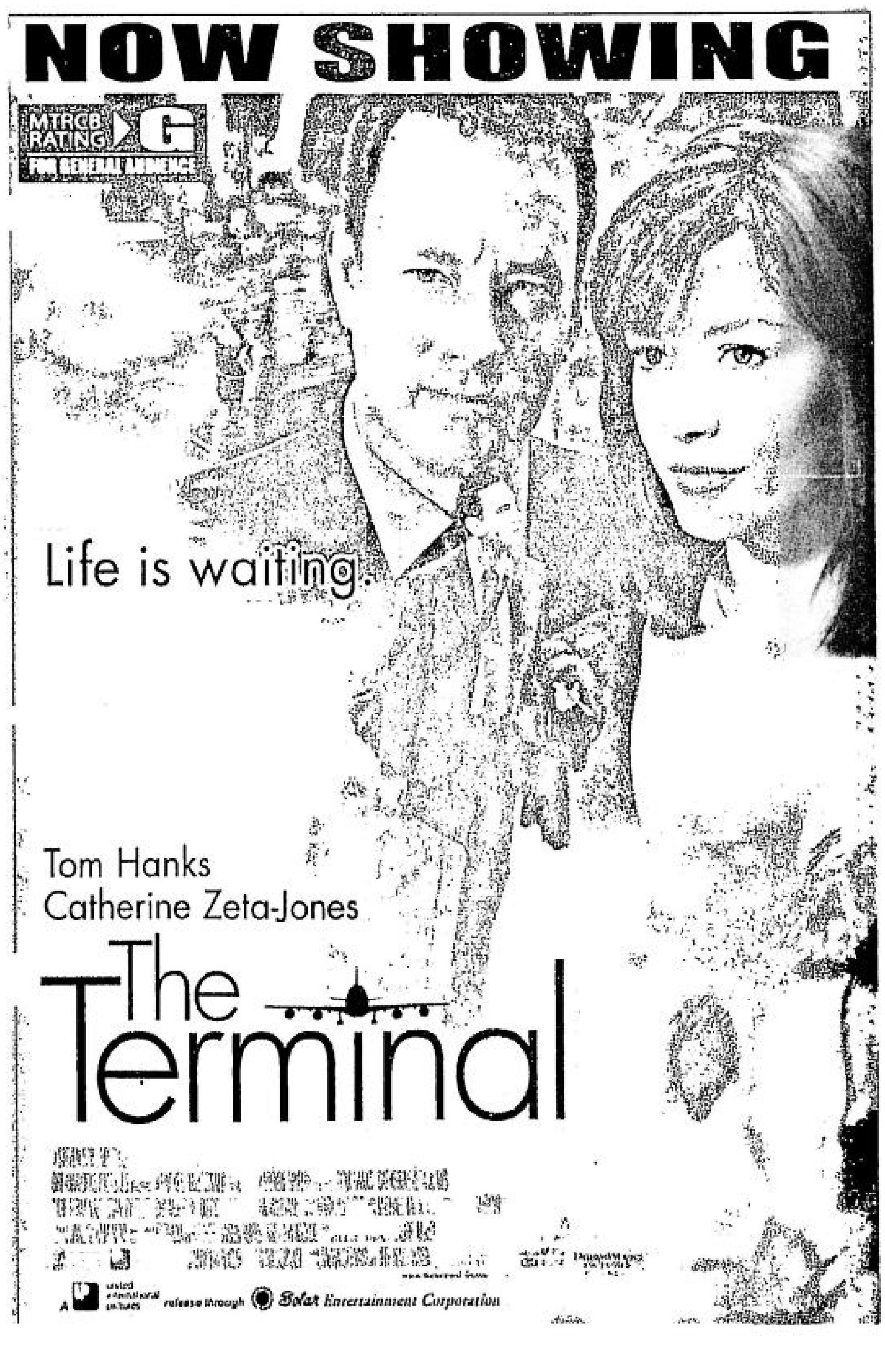
STAMOS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Editor Louie C. Camino

Cesar to star in another Hollywood movie

MONTANO. "Another Deep Breath," opposite a Hollywood actress

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Cesar Montano is cast in a movie that will be the first film starring a Hollywood actress and a Filipino actor to be released by a major American distributor.

When INQUIRER Entertainment asked about the identity of the Hollywood actress, David Maquiling, a Filipino-American filmmaker set to direct "Another Deep Breath," said, "We cannot release her name yet because of the sensitive nature of our negotiations."

Maquiling's first feature film, "Too Much Sleep," earned rave reviews when it was released in 2001.

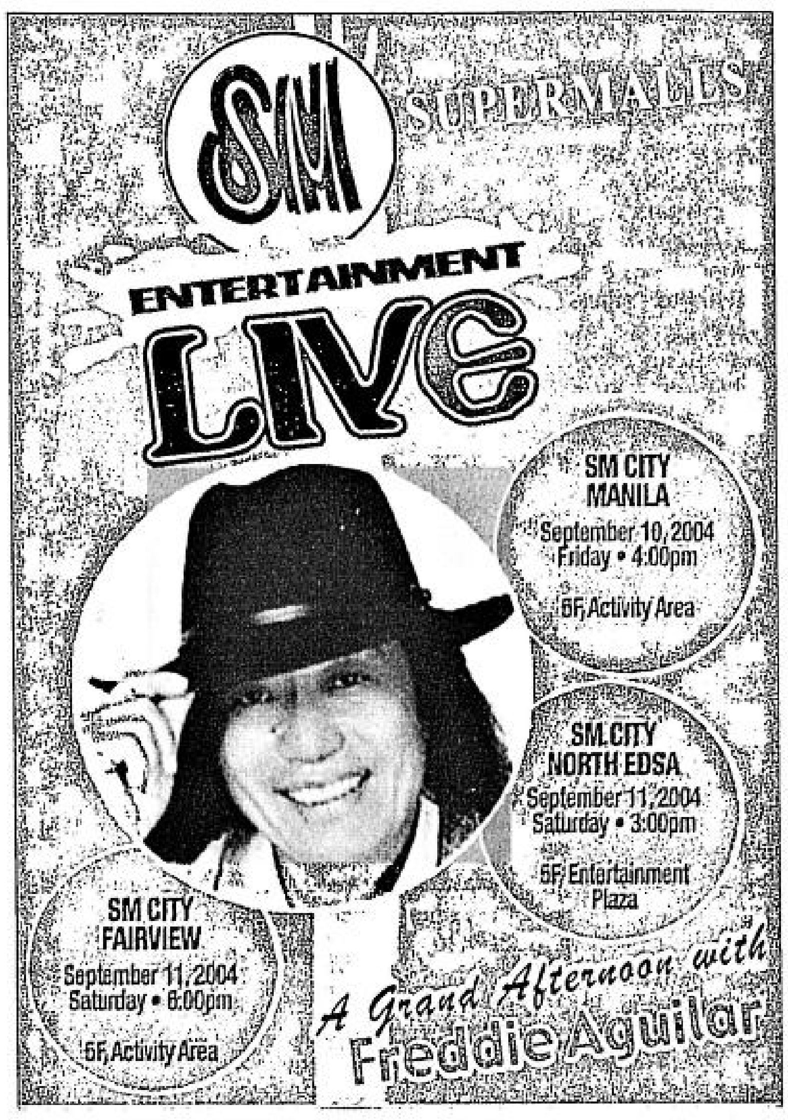
Maquiling is the first Filipino-American elected to the Directors Guild of America based on the strength of his feature debut, "Too Much Sleep." The magna cum laude graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts won an Independent Spirit Award nomination in 2002.

"Another Deep Breath" also fea-

CESAR/ A36

BOY Alano, with "Roberta" star Tessie Agana

Ex-child actor learns his lesson /A36



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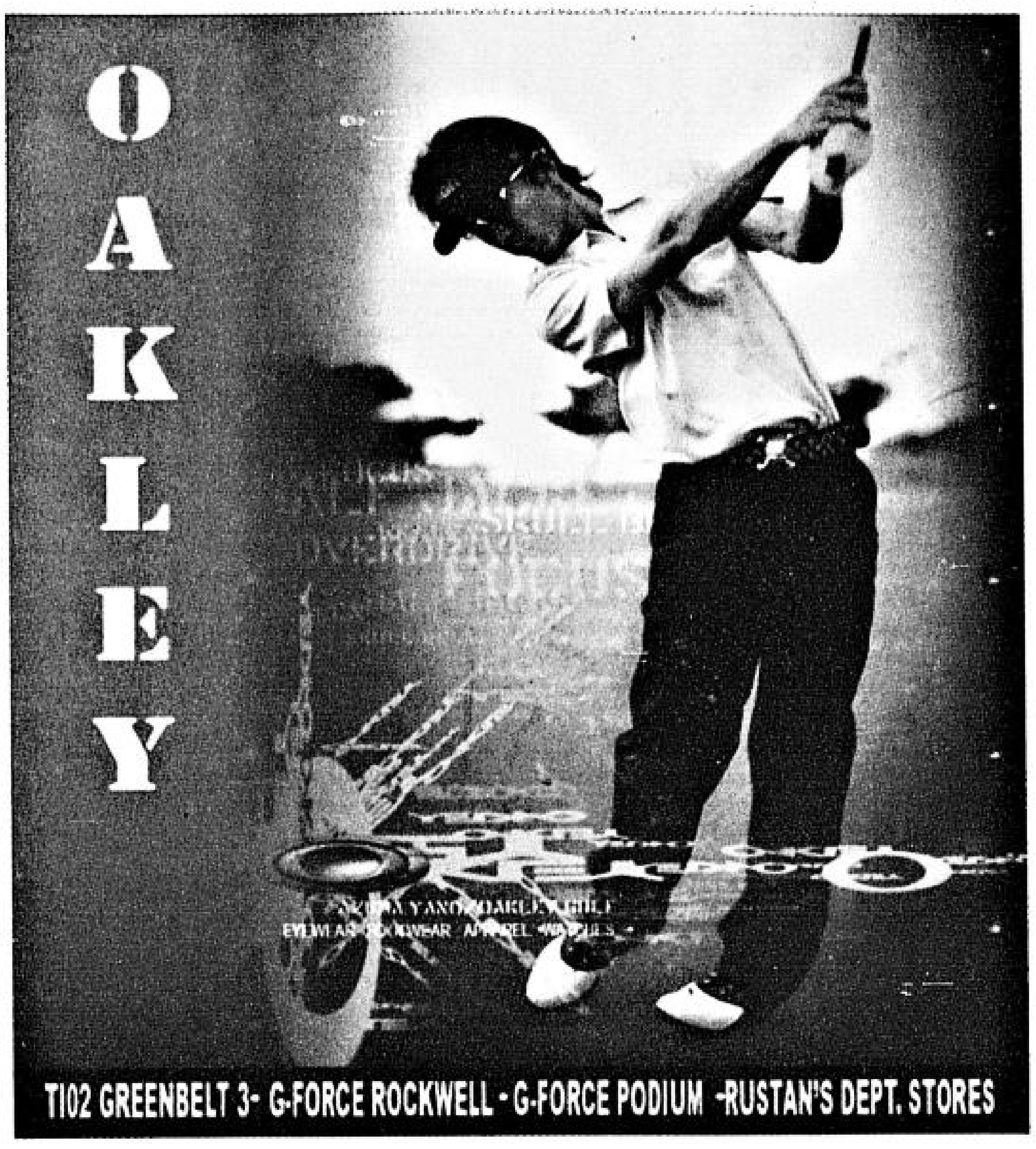

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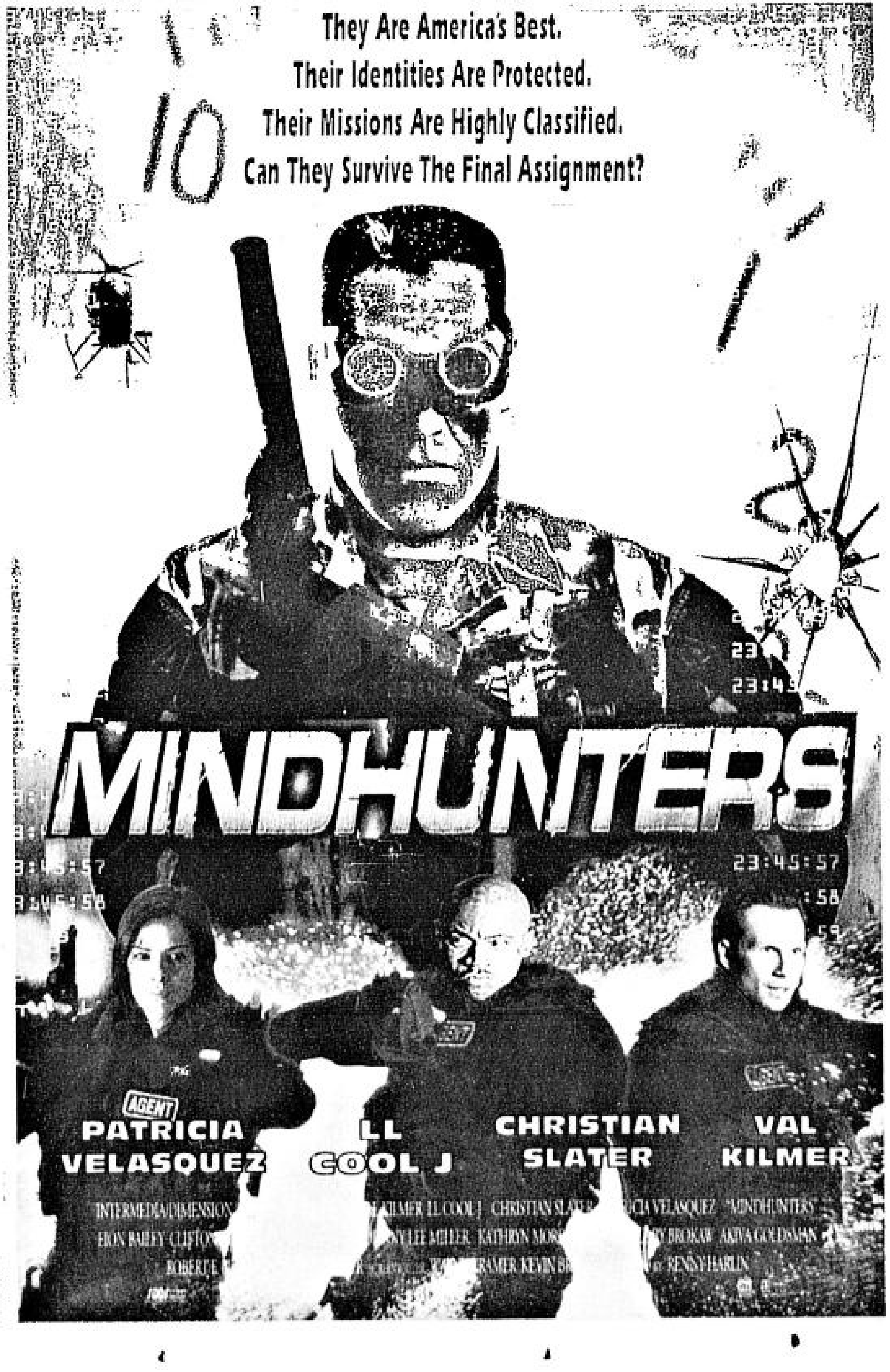

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Bulakeños celebrate weeklong festival

BULACAN Governor Josie M. Dela Cruz recently announced the celebration of Linggo ng Bulacan, which is now ongoing until Sept. 15, to highlight the province's major, income-earning products side by side with its proud history.

The products promo aims to enhance first of all Bulacan's purchasing power. "Bulacan, among the provinces, has the biggest population at 2.7 million," said Dela Cruz. "We have a big market in the province alone, so you can imagine how many kilos of pork we need to produce and to buy as well. We have to realize higher income from our own produce which we ourselves must be able to buy at a lower price."

At the same time, Bulacan needs to exert extra effort to tap other markets, but given the stiff global competition, Dela Cruz has found it imperative to develop special relations with such markets. "We have forged sisterhood with the city of Hesperia in California. Bulacan goods are going there duty-free," Dela Cruz announced.

"Also, we have lined up cultural activities for Linggo ng Bulacan to remind us, especially our young, again and again, of our proud heritage and rich culture-to keep them close to the memory of our heroes like Marcelo H. Del Pilar, the women of Malolos, and others who are not well known but whose lives could serve as an inspiration. We are proud of our artists, foremost of them, Francisco Balagtas. In fact, 16 of them are national artists. We must strengthen our collective identity to better appreciate ourselves. *Napakaganda ng aming probinsya.*"

Why hold a celebration in the midst of the recent calamity? Dela Cruz explained, "In these times, why not, why should we not celebrate? As Bulacan is submerged in floodwaters, we offer not just relief or simply survival. With a strong message of hope, a clear direction, and a firm guide, we have extended the means and support for long-term growth which will also benefit the rest of the country."

Under Dela Cruz's leadership, Bulacan has repeatedly won the highest citation for outstanding performance, the Gawad Galing Pook; Dela Cruz has been repeatedly cited outstanding governor.

Inipit, ensaymada, minasa, pastillas, tinapang bangus, longganisa, and *kapeng tagalog*, plus 21 other leading products from a long list of about 2,000, are now distinguished as "Tatak Bulakenyo" for having long contributed to the progress of the province.

"Bulacan has so much to offer not only to the Bulakenyo but also to the rest of our country. That is why intervention of the Bulacan government is necessary. We have to provide the support structure in anticipation of the greater challenges. Accelerated urbanization and environmental degradation threaten not only to prevent us from going forward but worse, overcome us. I do not want to be remembered as one who was not able to foresee the way things would become. With our cooperative system for our small and medium businesses, and our united and persistent resolve, we will overcome these challenges," said Dela Cruz.

FREE CATARACT SURGERIES

The Asian Eye Institute (AEI), a total eye care center that provides specialized medical services for a full range of eye diseases and visual disorders, celebrates its 3rd anniversary through a free cataract surgeries mission for indigent Filipinos. In partnership with the Opthalmological Foundation of the Philippines (OFPhil) and Operation Blessing Foundation (OB), AEI has granted 100 free cataract surgeries to the poor. OB is the nonprofit humanitarian aid foundation of the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), producer of 'The 700 Club Asia'. 100 qualified indigent beneficiaries have been scheduled for surgery at AEI in Rockwell. Surgeries are ongoing and are running for 10 Mondays from July to September. Concluding the free cataract surgeries mission is a fund-raising event dubbed 'An Eye on Broadway' on Sept. 10 at the Mandarin Hotel in Makati. Shown are OB staff Pastor Jun Mercado and Mavic Mercado guiding newly operated beneficiaries at the AEI. For more details, call the AEI office at 898-2020.

Canadian expert advisers assist Vis-Min SMEs

THE CANADIAN Executive Service Organization (Ceso)-a Canadian International Development Agency (Cida) funded project-is fielding expert advisers to small and medium enterprises under its Business Advisory Project Phase 2 (BAP2) in the Visayas-Mindanao region to make them more competitive and efficient in a global economy.

Canadian expert advisers work hand-in-hand with SMEs on short duration assignments to provide technical assistance in quality control, production processes and practices, marketing, technology transfer, product design and development, organization, accounting and management systems among others.

While the Cesobap2 program is designed to increase the operating effectiveness and efficiency of SMEs, it will also help them become more responsive to business opportunities in the domestic and export markets.

Cesobap2 advises SMEs with export potential or those who are already exporting their products to seek these important business advisory services. This will help SMEs streamline their production and allow them to expand confidently their marketing operations in the domestic and foreign markets as well.

SME industry sectors that are targeted for assistance are agri-business such as food processing, aquafish culture, and high-value cash crops like herbs and organic spices; gifts, toys, and house wares; small manufacturing such as jewelry-making, fashion accessories, metal manufacturing and fabrication, ceramic making, and plastics; furniture; tourism; and environment and solid waste management on an enterprise level, among others.

Some enterprises in Visayas that availed themselves of Canadian experts are Reynaldo's Ceramics Inc, Vismach Plastics & Molds Manufacturing Corp, Toyo Caps Plastic Factory Corp, Cebu Legacy Corp, Golden Stitch International Corp, Unlad Kabayan, and more.

In Mindanao, SMEs that utilized Canadian experts are Puentespina Farms, Eurobaker, Chippens, Nestfarms, Jack's Ridge, and Amco, among others.

For detailed inquiries, interested SMEs can get in touch with Cesobap2 in Davao City at (082)222-6640, fax (082)222-6578, 0919-2299777 or e-mail cesobap@pldtdsl.net.

SMEs in Cebu City can call Cesobap2 at (032)254-5083, fax (032)253-9651, or e-mail cesovis@pldtdsl.net.

FIRST LIFE INKS MOA WITH EQUITABLE PCI FOR RETIREMENT FUND

First Guarantee Life Assurance Co Inc (First Life) has tied up with Equitable PCI Bank (EPCIB) for the management of the former's Employees' Retirement Fund. A memorandum of agreement was recently signed with (center right and left) First Life president and CEO Peter G. Coyiuto and EPCIB president and CEO Rene J. Buenaventura. Also present from First Life were (2nd from right) Jaime M. Santiago, EVP, actuary and COO, and (right) Agerico Mortimor Farrel L. Melgar, SAVP individual insurance marketing with EPCIB's (2nd from left) Marvin V. Fausto, SVP trust banking and (left) Susan G. Almendral, AVP business development unit.

Touring the world with Noel Christmas Bazaars

THE HIGHLY anticipated Noel Christmas Bazaars Series will take everyone for a roller coaster tour of the world-at the World Trade Center, that is. Making a pit stop at the exposition complex along Roxas Boulevard, Noel rediscovers the joys of sharing and giving as it teams up with an equally established series of shopping expositions, the Christmas Shop expo, to bring you the Noel Discovery and Christmas Shopping Expo.

What is being revved up as the shopping extravaganza of the year is scheduled from Nov. 26 to 28 and will feature highlights sure to satisfy the hardest to please of shoppers of all shapes and sizes, and tickle the fancies of everyone from all races and cultures.

Approaching the last quarter of 2004, people are also on the lookout for business opportunities they can embark on to earn a little extra during the holidays. The Noel Discovery and Christmas Shopping Expo has formulated gimmicks on how to make the holidays sweeter and more festive for individuals and companies in need of promotional and sales boosts, with the support of the GMA Network, Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Foreign Post and Centrex Corp.

For more information on how to take advantage of the business opportunities of the Expo, call Cut Unlimited at 687-0654, 687-2955, 687-0604 or e-mail cut@pacific.net.ph.

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897.HAIR

VASELINE LOTION, DAVID'S TIE UP

Vaseline Lotion, the skin care specialist from Unilever, ties up with the largest beauty salon chain in the country, David's, for a promotion called 'Treats for Your Hands and Feet'. From Sept. 6 to Nov. 15, Vaseline invites all women to pamper themselves by purchasing 100ml or 200ml of any of the following Vaseline variants: Vaseline Deep Nourishing Lotion, Vaseline Moisture Soft Lotion, Vaseline Anti-Bacterial Lotion, and Vaseline White & Clear Lotion at any Robinsons Supermarket and Big R branches, and get a 25-percent discount for manicure, pedicure and foot spa at David's Salon, David's Day Spa, Red Salon, David's Prestige or Rever Salon. Present during the contract signing were Vaseline Lotion assistant brand manager Jenny Infante and David Charlton, CEO of David's Salon.

SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION'S 1ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Ilaw ng Kaunlaran Senior Citizens Association Inc recently held its first general assembly meeting and social gathering Aug. 8 at the Barangay Kaunlaran Covered Court led by president Elpidio Suniega. The activities were attended by Rep. Nanette Castelo Daza, Councilors Ariel Inton, Janet Malaya, Edcel Lagman Jr and Barangay Kaunlaran Captain Bernardo Sanchez. During the activities, free medicine and gift packages were distributed to senior citizens of Barangay Kaunlaran, courtesy of GlaxoSmithKline Philippines Inc. The Association announced that its next monthly meeting would be held on Sept. 12. On this day, the newly elected officers will be inducted into office.

Bits & Clips

British Archbishop in Manila

HIS GRACE the Most Rev. Maurice Couve de Murville, Archbishop Emeritus of Birmingham, England, and Grand Cross Conventual Chaplain "ad honorem" of the British Association of the Order of Malta arrived in Manila Sept. 3. He will participate in the Solemn Conventual Mass and Investiture Ceremonies of HE Most Rev. Archbishop of Manila Gaudencio B. Rosales DD as Grand Cross Conventual Chaplain "ad honorem" of the Philippine Association of the Order of Malta to be held on Sept. 10 at the St. Peter Malta Chapel of the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros. On the same occasion, two other Magistral Chaplains of the Order of Malta will be invested: Rev. Msgr Esteban U. Lo, Rector of the Lorenzo Mission Institute (LMI) and Rev. Fr. Genaro O. Diwa, Minister, Ministry for Liturgical Affairs of the Archdiocese of Manila.

Food garnishing course

LEARN

how to make the foods you serve more visually exciting-with fruit and vegetable carvings. ProActive Center for Training (PACT) offers its How to Garnish with Fruit and Vegetable Carving Workshop on Sept. 11, 12 noon to 5 p.m. at Ipanema Bar & Restaurant, 2nd level of the Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Reservations and inquiries are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at 687-1787 or 0916-8226053. Various ways of carving vegetables such as cucumbers, potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, radishes and red peppers and fruits such as apples will be taught. Training fee is P1,800 per participant inclusive of the vegetables and fruits, carving tools, snacks, handouts and a certificate of completion.

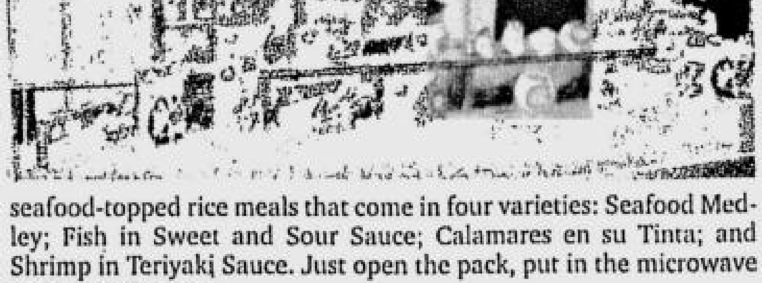
ProductFILES

Seachamp products at Ifex Philippines

SEACHAMP products were showcased at the recently concluded International Food Exhibition Philippines or IFEX held at the World Trade Center. Organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), the show featured fresh and processed natural and organic food, marine products, food specialties, kitchen accessories and allied products and services.

Among the ready-to-serve gourmet seafood fare from Seachamp were the creamy and nutritious, microwaveable Seachamp Soups that come in four flavors: Clam Chowder Boston-Style, Cream of Shrimp and Broccoli, Fish and Corn Chowder, and Lobster Bisque. You don't need to add water.

Also featured at the show were the Seachamp Hearty Meals, seafood-topped rice meals that come in four varieties: Seafood Medley; Fish in Sweet and Sour Sauce; Calamares en su Tinta; and Shrimp in Teriyaki Sauce. Just open the pack, put in the microwave and its ready to eat.



Other Seachamp delicacies include Relleneong Bangus, Fish Longanisa, Paella Marinara, Calamari Sticks, Shrimp Burger Patties and many more. All Seachamp products are available at leading supermarkets. Or call 854-1035.

Brotherhood of the hitmakers

By Remy Umerez
Contributor

BONDING IN US. (Clockwise from front left) Marco Sison the storyteller, Rico J. Puno the joker, Hajji Alejandro the well-groomed, and Rey Valera the take-home guy

SINGING has brought Marco Sison to places he used to see only in travel brochures. You name the country and Marco has been there, entertaining thousands of Filipino contract workers.

Marco, still boyish looking after all these years, recently returned from a monthlong tour of the United States where he performed with fellow hitmakers Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Rey Valera and Nonoy Zuñiga. It was their first time together in what was billed as "The Great Hitmakers" concert tour.

The tour covered the Grand Olympic in Los Angeles, New Orleans Hall in Las Vegas, The Osceola Performing Arts in Orlando, Florida, the Sand Castle in Atlantic City, and the Getaway Theater in Chicago.

Thirty days in the US gave Marco a chance to have a closer look at his fellow hitmakers as private persons rather than celebrities.

Rowdiest, thriftiest

"All of us flew business class," he says. "We were allowed to bring one companion each but we had to take care of the ticket. Rico and Hajji had their lady loves with them. Rey brought along his eldest son. Nonoy and I went solo.

"Our road manager, Norma Japitana, had a room all to herself. Even when we were still on the plane, *alam mo na kung sino ang pinakamagulo*. None other than Rico J., whom we referred to as '*Kuya*.'"

The original concept of Hitmakers was to put Rico J. and Basil Valdez together in one show. It didn't materialize. But the concept was carried out with the inclusion of Hajji and Rey. Rico, Hajji and Rey all reigned in the music scene during the '70s. Balladeers Marco and Nonoy, both hitmakers during the '80s, completed the line-up.

Marco's signature song was "My Love Will See You Through." Nonoy's biggest hit was "Never Ever Say Goodbye."

"We were given $50 allowance per day," says Marco. "I think I was the thriftiest. The first thing I bought was a pair walking shoes because I brought only one pair, for the shows. Rico and Hajji were the big spenders. Imeldific. They bought so many pairs of shoes. Nonoy also bought a pair but it was for his daughter."

> 'I was the thriftiest. Rico and Hajji were the big spenders. Imeldific'

Rey Valera's style

During the tour, Rey earned a new tag, "Mr. Valot."

"We noticed that he rarely ate when we went to the restaurants that sponsored the show," says Marco. "They always prepared a lot of food, as if it was fiesta time. We learned that Rey would bring his food to the hotel and reheat it, which was a practical thing to do. Soon, I was doing the same thing.

"Nonoy and I were weight-conscious. Happy *na kami basta* we had a stock of juices and crackers in our room. Whenever we felt really hungry, we would raid Rey's room."

For being tardy, the medal should go to Rico and Hajji. "We were used to them coming late," says Marco.

"Hajji was always well-groomed whenever he left the room. For me, it was enough that I combed my hair once."

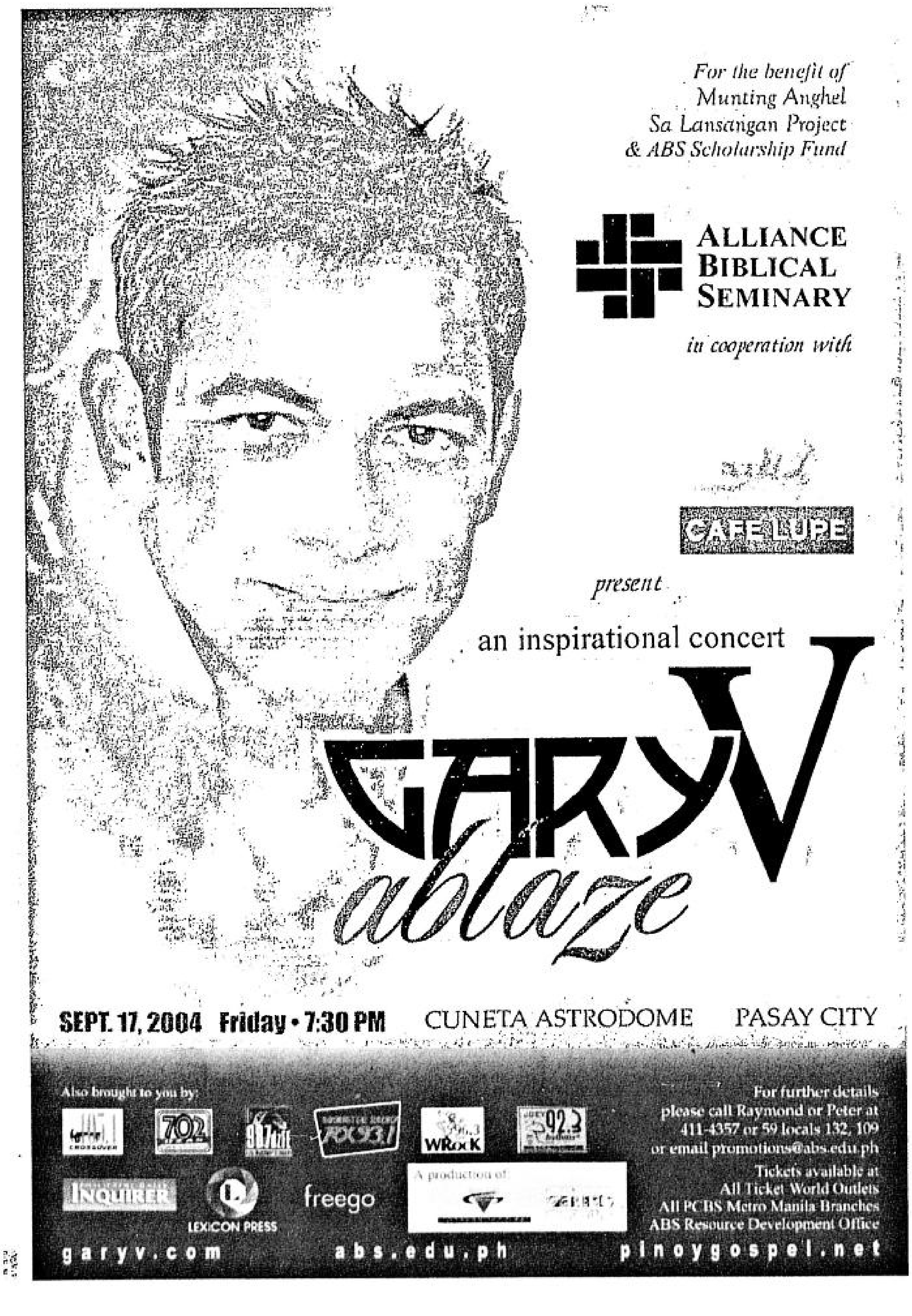
Rico's jokes

During the shows, Rico J. would make fun of the disability of Nonoy, who lost a leg in a bomb explosion at the Manila Hotel in the early '80s. "The audience would laugh and even Nonoy would join in the fun," says Marco. "Rico didn't spare even our manager. *Nagpa*-tightened *daw*. I think only Rico can get away with it. The show is not complete without Rico's green jokes.

"I did not get offended when someone asked Rico who I was. The one who asked had been living in the US for 30 years."

The hitmakers prayed before the start of each show. "I get nervous because I open the show," says Marco. "After my first song, I'd feel okay again. Our performance reached its peak when all five of us, wearing different jacket colors over our white shirts, did a medley of OPM hits, and we engaged in wordplay at each other's expense in between numbers."

Aside from the loud appreciation of the audience wherever the group performed, Marco believes the monthlong tour achieved another special thing. "We were able to form a brotherhood," he says.



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SM CITY NORTH EDSA
A Special Tribute to Grandparents featuring ELIZABETH RAMSEY
September 10, 2004
Friday • 5:00pm
5F, Entertainment Plaza
A Grand Afternoon with FREDDDIE AGUILAR
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 3:00pm
5F, Entertainment Plaza
Grand Finals Search for Singing Lolo & Lola with PILITA CORRALES
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 3:00pm
5F, Entertainment Plaza

SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS
BROADWAY MUSICALE SHOW
September 10, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Atrium A
GET HEALTHY WITH SLIMMER'S WORLD
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Atrium A
TRIBUTE TO GRANDPARENTS featuring JOSE MARI CHAN
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Atrium A

SM CITY BACOOR
Tribute to Grandparents: LEAH NAVARRO LIVE IN CONCERT!
September 10, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Centermall
GRANDPARENT'S DAY SPECIAL: Broadway Musical
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Centermall

SM CITY MANILA
Grandparent's Day Celebration featuring FREDDIE AGUILAR
September 10, 2004
Friday • 5:00pm
5F, Activity Area
Ballroom Dancing with PONCYQUIRINO
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 2:00pm
5F, Activity Area
Grandparent's Day Celebration featuring PILITA CORRALES
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
5F, Activity Area
Grandparent's Celebration with HAJI ALEJANDRO
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 5:00pm
5F, Activity Area

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
KUNDIMAN HARANA NG NAKARAAN with SOULFUL MOOD STRINGS
September 10, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Center Atrium
ELIZABETH RAMSEY LIVE! (A Grandparent's Day Presentation)
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Covered Walk
Rockin' & Rollin' with RJ JACINTO
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Covered Walk

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
KUNDIMAN CHOIR
September 10, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Centermall
Tribute to Grandparents featuring IMELDA PAPIN IN CONCERT
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Centermall
GRANDPARENT'S DAY SPECIAL: BALLROOM DANCING
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Centermall

SM CITY MARILAO
GRANDPARENT'S DAY MALL CELEBRITY featuring FLORANTE
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
GF, Entertainment Plaza

SM CITY STA. MESA
Rockin' & Rollin' with RJ JACINTO
September 10, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Covered Walk
GRANDPARENT'S DAY Broadway Special
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 2:00pm
Covered Walk
ELIZABETH RAMSEY LIVE! (A Grandparent's Day Presentation)
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 6:30pm
Covered Walk

SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS
Celebrity Lola in Concert: PILITA CORRALES
September 10, 2004
Friday • 4:00PM
LGF, Eastwing
CARTOON NETWORK AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE EVENT
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 2:00pm
Cyberzone
GRANDPARENT'S DAY: CLASSICAL DANCING
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
LGF, Eastwing
PONCY QUIRINO BALLROOM DANCING
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 1:00pm
LGF, Eastwing
FOURTH WEEK CAR RAFFLE DRAW
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
LGF, Eastwing

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
GRANDPARENT'S FITNESS DAY BY SLIMMER'S WORLD
September 10, 2004
Friday • 3:00PM
Activity Area
EVENTS SOLUTION Search for Singing Lolo & Lola with CLAIRE DELA FUENTE
September 10, 2004
Friday • 5:00pm
Annex
A Grand Afternoon with FREDDIE AGUILAR
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 6:00pm
Activity Area
GRANDPARENT'S BALLROOM DANCING
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 2:00pm
Activity Area
MARCO SISON Serenades Grandparents
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 5:00pm • Annex

SM CITY BICUTAN
GRANDPARENT'S DAY: BROADWAY SPECIAL
September 10, 2004
Friday • 2:00pm
Entertainment Plaza, Bldg. A
Rockin' & Rollin' with RJ JACINTO
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza, Bldg. A
KUNDIMAN STRINGS
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm • Bldg. B
A Grandparent's Day Presentation featuring ELIZABETH RAMSEY
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza, Bldg. A

SM CITY PAMPANGA
Grandparent's Day Celebration: BALLROOM DANCING KING & QUEEN CHAMPIONSHIPS
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza
Grandparent's Day Celebration featuring: DULCE
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza

SM CITY BAGUIO
GRANDPARENT'S DAY MALL CELEBRITY featuring BOYFRIENDS
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza
GRANDPARENT'S DAY MALL CELEBRITY featuring FREDDIE AGUILAR
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza

SM CITY LUCENA
"BIDA SI LOLO, BIDA SI LOLA" VARIETY SHOW
September 11, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza
Grandparent's Day Mall Celebrity featuring NONOY ZUÑIGA
September 12, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
GF, Entertainment Plaza

Ex-child actor learns his lesson

By Marinel R. Cruz

YESTERDAY

FORMER actor Boy Alano, who played Tessie Agana's trusted friend in the 1951 hit movie "Roberta," said he cried real tears during his audition because drama actor Van de Leon hit him with a leather belt.

Alano was only 6 when he joined the cast of "Roberta," the movie that saved Sampaguita Pictures from bankruptcy after a fire razed the studio in 1951. The former actor was erroneously described as "the late Boy Alano" in a photo caption in a story on Agana in this section last week.

Alano, a nephew of Sampaguita Pictures assistant director Gerardo Alano, lined up along with 40 other boys to audition for the role of Roberta's best friend.

"He brought a leather belt to the audition," Alano recalls of the late De Leon. "He hit us with it and watched our reaction. Doc Perez (the late Sampaguita patriarch Dr. Jose Perez) picked me because he said, compared with the other boys, I cried most naturally. Why wouldn't I cry that way when I was hit in the thigh? It was painful."

No other movie surpassed the success of "Roberta" the year it was shown, says Alano. He and Agana went on to do more Sampaguita movies.

Alano was in "Kiko," "Cumbanchero," "Asawa Kong Musikong Bumbong," "Ulila ng Bataan," "Munting Koronel," "Batman and Robin," "Batang Turista," "Batang Iskuwater" and "Bus Stop," among others.

Alano says De Leon's "unique technique" was only one of the methods the Vera-Perezes of Sampaguita Pictures had used to "discover" their stars.

"They were really very strict," says Alano. "If they said you would start shooting at 7 a.m., you had to be there at least at 6:45 a.m. If you were late, you would be fined P50. At that time, we were earning P50 a week, so that was a week's earning.

"CUMBANCHERO" with Van de Leon (on stage), beside a shirtless Alano

"But they took care of us very well," he says of the bosses at Sampaguita Pictures. "They made sure we were well-dressed when we met the press. Doc Perez did not want his talents to be simply wearing T-shirts, *sandos* and jeans, like some stars today."

Nothing permanent

Herminio "Boy" Alano was born on March 20, 1941, the second of the four children of Exequiel Alano and Consuelo Sotto. He took up commerce at the Far Eastern University, but did not complete the course.

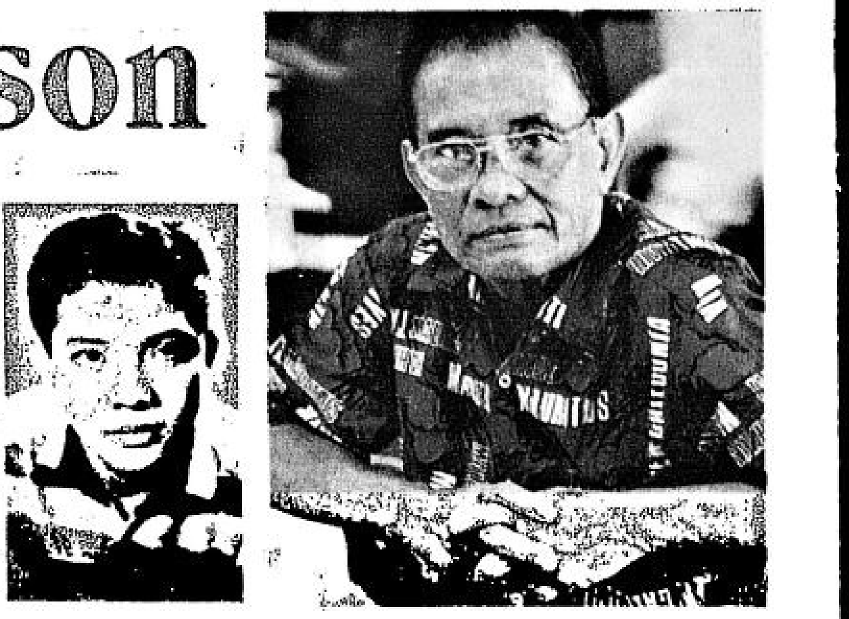
In the '70s, Alano worked as an assistant director to the late filmmaker Artemio Marquez, on a movie that starred Nora Aunor, who was then at the peak of being the superstar. Alano was last seen in the comedy "Basta't Driver Sweet Lover" with Smokey Manoloto and Dennis Padilla in the '80s.

He ran for councilor in Manila's fourth district under the party of mayoral candidate Felix Cantal, but lost.

Alano, now 63, says the biggest lesson he learned as an actor is that nothing is permanent in show business.

"I did a lot of movies for Sampaguita," he says, in an interview in Quezon City. "At that time, I was earning P500 per picture, plus the P50 weekly allowance. But I lived like there was no tomorrow. I was not able to save for my future."

WITH Eddie Gutierrez in a '60s movie


BOY Alano today and as a busy actor in the '60s RUDY ESPERAS

Fewer movies

He had wanted to take up economics in college, but he was too preoccupied with his vices. "Whenever I had the money, I'd go to places like a soda fountain and Hollywood on Avenida Rizal. I'd stay there till all the establishments closed at 2 a.m. I went crazy over the singers. I would even accompany them home."

He was able to buy a lot in Cainta, Rizal, but had to sell it because his father, a government employee, needed the money because of "legal problems."

"It was too late when I realized my mistakes," he says. "This was when I was doing only two movies a year and was wondering how to make both ends meet."

Alano is married to Luz Arellano. They have four daughters—Jocelyn, Hermie Lorraine, Lovely Hermie and Lorraine Hermie, all living with him on G. Tuazon in Sampaloc, Manila.

"My second daughter is scheduled to give birth in October, and I can only pray for her," he says. "*May awa ang Diyos*. Had it not been for my faith in Him and for the help of my friends, I don't think I'd have survived."

Among the show biz personalities Alano considers his friend is showman German Moreno. Alano says Moreno was still involved with "That's Entertainment" and "Germ's Special" when he first sought his help.

"He was there at the time I was really low," he says of Moreno. "I worked with him in the '60s. I was happy to find out that he hasn't changed a bit."

Not too late

He says he has also turned to God for strength. He is now an officer of a Catholic group called the Holy Name Society in Manila.

"It's a fulfilling job," he says. "I'm head of the Society's education committee. We teach children how to pray the Holy Rosary and explain to them the importance of hearing Mass every Sunday."

He says his work in the Society made him realize that "it's not too late" for him to change his ways.

"If I would be given another shot at show business, I'd love it this time," he says. "It's difficult to be always running to your friends for help. They get fed up."

Alano has this advice to today's actors: "Don't ever think that the success you're experiencing now will last forever. You have to prepare for your family's future today. Drugs and other vices would only make matters worse.

"Be thankful for even the littlest gifts God is giving you," he adds. "Because He can always take them away in a snap."

Cesar Montano ...

From page A33

tures a Filipino-Canadian actress, Jane McLean, who will play as the wife of Montano's character. The story is described as "an intense love affair that crosses racial lines and threatens the marriage of Peter Materdo (Montano), a thirtysomething Filipino American college professor, and endangers the career of Alison Turner (to be played by the Hollywood actress), a new teacher at the college and a former student of Peter's."

'Lost' meets 'Greek'

Maquiling, who wrote the screenplay, said, "We are scheduled to begin shooting in March 2005, most likely in the San Francisco Bay Area."

An announcement further describes the movie: "An American story that looks into a culture rarely seen on screen, "Another Deep Breath" is a funny, sad, passionate drama/comedy about two people searching for themselves and finding love, honor, family, and forgiveness along the way. Described as "Lost in Translation" meets "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," "Another Deep Breath" is now in the final stage of independent financing."

The film marks the latest American film project of Montano. In "The Great Raid," to be released by Miramax Films in the US in February 2005, the actor plays Captain Pajota, a Filipino guerrilla leader who guides the American commandos in freeing POWs in World War II-torn Philippines.

Maquiling said he did extensive work to cast the male lead role, "who is the lynch pin of the entire film." The writer/director explained, "When I saw his (Montano's) breathtaking and magnificent performances in "Jose Rizal," "Muro Ami," and "Bagong Buwan," I immediately knew that Cesar was the one. He's a true movie star, ready to take on Hollywood."

He revealed that the search for the actress to play Karen, the role that went to McLean, was just as extensive. "We worked for more than 10 months on the casting of Karen, and interviewed and auditioned actresses in New York, LA, Chicago, San Francisco, Manila, and Cebu before turning to Toronto, where we found Jane. We received almost a thousand head shots and audition tapes for the role."

Asked to give more details about McLean, Maquiling said, "Aside from Jane's obvious beauty and enormous acting talent, the qualities that matter most to me are her intelligence, maturity, sophistication, generosity, and most of all, her deep sense of compassion."

He said McLean was "born in the Philippines but was raised in Toronto. Both of Jane's parents are Filipino (last name is Gregorio). McLean is her married name."

The New York City-based writer/director, who teaches in the film department of Hunter College, added, "She just starred with Dan Aykroyd in the new film "Intern Academy." Maquiling is the lead in a weekly TV series on Canadian TV and starred in a BBC movie shot this summer."

Pinoy producer

Producing "Another Deep Breath" is Ray Cuerdo, the University of the Philippines alumnus who co-produced Gil Portes' well-reviewed "Small Voices (Mga Munting Tinig)," the Philippines' entry to the Oscar and Golden Globe Awards in 2002 and which became the first such movie to be theatrically released in the US and Canada. Abe Pagtama, a Filipino-American actor with several high-profile US films and TV commercials to his credit, is one of the associate producers and is also in the cast.

Cuerdo, an executive at a major Hollywood studio, and Maquiling are conducting a seminar titled "Uniting and Empowering Filipino-Americans Through Film" this Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Sixth National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA) Empowerment Conference at the Radisson Hotel O'Hare in Chicago.

In a statement about the workshop, one of several seminars lined up this weekend by the conference organizers, Maquiling announced, "I am very proud that Ray and I share the same goals and aspirations—using film as the most powerful tool to educate, enlighten, and empower our community. With the guidance, faith, and wisdom of those who have come before us, we can tell the stories that honor our Filipino culture by celebrating its beauty and richness with audiences here in America and across the world."

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GMA takes credit for stocks surge

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is taking credit for the return of the bulls to the stock market.

Malacañang claimed that confidence in Ms Arroyo's administration had pushed the benchmark index to its best close in more than four years.

"Confidence in the economy reflects confidence in the political leadership," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a briefing.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index yesterday surged to 1,739.92, its highest close since April 12, 2000, when it finished at 1,744.57.

The Phisix has been up by 15 percent since the May 11 elections and by about 10 percent since President Arroyo started her new term.

Analysts, who expect the index to hit between 1,800 and 2,000 before the year ends, traced the upbeat investor sentiment to the President's decision to address the country's problems head-on, going as far as admitting that the country was in a fiscal crisis.

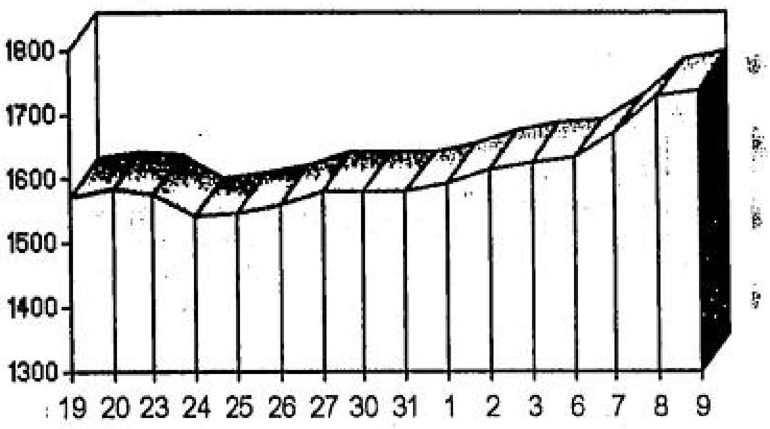
Investors were also heartened by the robust economic growth of 6.3 percent in the first half of the year, which has prompted economic managers to adjust the growth target for the gross domestic product to between 5.9 percent and 6.1 percent this year, from the original forecast of between 4.9 percent and 5.8 percent.

Bunye said confidence in the President was evident in the "solidarity of our people to collectively face the crisis, their political will, and the sense of hope that projects a brighter future."

Bunye cited the Bayanihan Fund—money pooled from donations—as indicative of the positive response of the public to the President's plea for sacrifice.

An agency will be formed to manage the Bayanihan Fund whose money would be reflected as income of the Bureau of Trea-

GMA/B2



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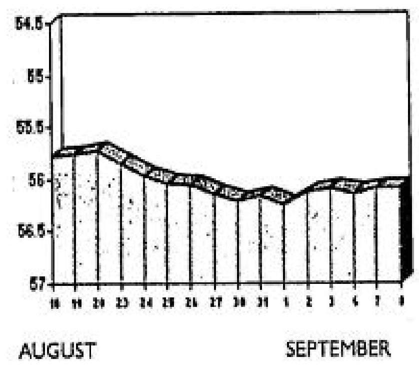


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.08= $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 9, 2004

¥ 109.60 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 9, 2004

GOLD; $398.30-398.80
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 8, 2004

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Vehicle sales in August down 6.7%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL vehicle assemblers suffered another backslide as they reported a 6.7-percent drop in month-on-month sales in August due to unavailable stocks, delay in production and shipment, as well as the continued uncertainty in the business climate in view of the "fiscal crisis."

According to the latest report of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA), total sales in August dipped 15 percent to 7,280 from year-ago level.

Figures for the first eight months show a decline of 8 percent to 57,093 units compared with year-ago level.

"However, assemblers are still hopeful that industry sales would improve in September given aggressive promotions, introduction of new models and minor changes in existing models," the report said.

Passenger car sales continued to fuel the overall industry performance with a 61-percent increase in the first eight months to 21,234 units. This represented 37 percent of all vehicles sold in the period.

The commercial vehicle segment—light trucks, trucks and buses, Asian utility vehicles (AUVs) and light commercial vehicles (LCVs)--continued its slump with a 27-percent decline to a total of 35,859 units sold in January to August.

In the same period, sales of both the AUVs and the light trucks slid by 51 percent. Sales of LCVs grew 21 percent and of trucks and buses by 2 percent.

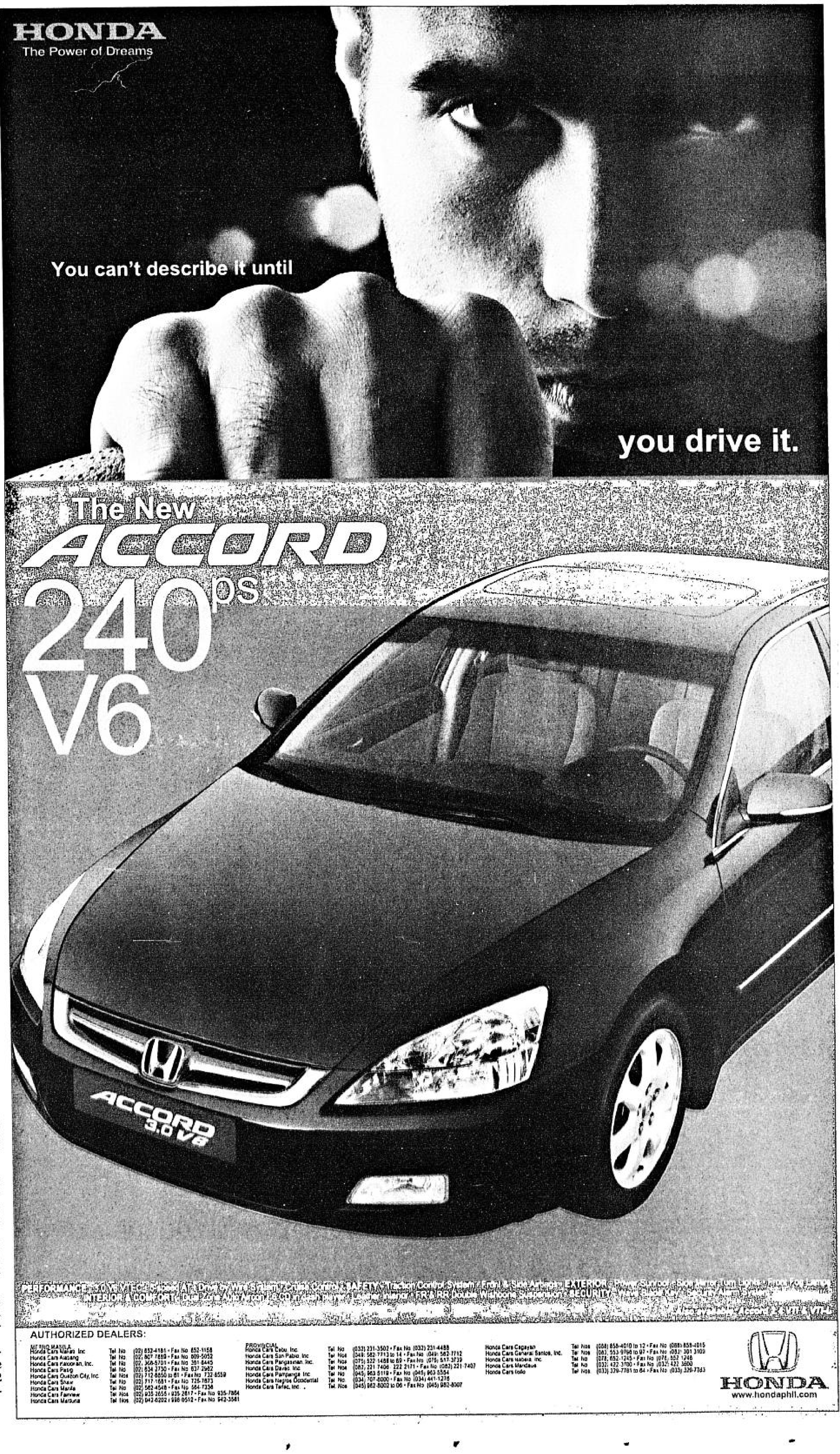
In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. led the pack with 35 percent of the market. It sold 19,883 units in the first eight months, up by 9.6 percent from a year ago.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. came in second with 14 percent of the market, selling 8,116 units. This, however, represented a 22-percent decline in sales compared with year-ago figures.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. placed third with 13 percent of the market. It sold 7,351 units from January to August, a decline of 34 percent from the year-ago level.

In the passenger car segment, Toyota grabbed 48.4 percent of the market; Honda had 23.8 percent; and General Motors Automobiles Philippines had 6.4 percent.

Also, Toyota sold the biggest number commercial vehicles, grabbing 26.8 percent of the market segment. Mitsubishi cornered 19.2 percent and Isuzu Philippines Corp. 17.1 percent.



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DTI lifts ban on Solid Cement

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S third-largest cement maker yesterday called off plans to shut down its plants for up to six months after the government partially lifted the ban on its products, which cost the firm some P270 million in lost opportunities.

The Department of Trade and Industry last month issued an order prohibiting the sale of Solid Cement Corp.'s Island Cement and other brands made in its plant in Antipolo City.

The DTI said Island Cement failed several mechanical and chemical tests of the Bureau of Product Standards and the Department of Public Works and Highway's Bureau of Research and Standards.

Solid Cement is one of the two operating units of Cemex Philippines, a subsidiary of cement giant Cemex based in Monterrey, Mexico.

Paul Victor Aquino, Cemex Philippines marketing director, said in a press briefing that the partial lifting of the cease and desist order gave the company a relief, although hearings on the alleged substandard quality of cement manufactured before the order was issued would be continued.

In a letter to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas dated Sept. 7, Solid Cement said it was constrained to temporarily close or suspend the operations of its plant for up to six months starting midnight of Sept. 8.

The company estimated that the move would initially affect 175 workers.

But in an order issued Sept. 9 and which Solid Cement officially received before noon of the same day, the DTI said the preliminary CDO was partly lifted on the following conditions:

- that an inventory of stocks bearing the Island Cement brand is conducted by the Bureau of Product Standards at the firm's warehouse and silo No. 4;
- Solid Cement should not dispose or distribute the stocks in question until further orders from the DTI's adjudication officer and
- the BPS should conduct a monthly audit of the factory and all the products at the Antipolo plant.

PRULINK — PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 07, 2004	Last Week August 31, 2004
Bond Fund - Peso	1.14721	1.14517
Managed Fund - Peso	1.21809	1.20225
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0396	1.0493

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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BIR eyes back taxes from ecozone firms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has trained its sights on collecting back taxes from companies operating in special economic zones that have avoided paying proper taxes.

BIR Deputy Commission Kim Herares said in an interview that the proposed revenue regulation would clearly state the tax liabilities of economic zone locators.

The BIR came up with the proposed revenue regulation to settle long standing differences with economic zone locators in defining gross income.

Under the law, economic zone locators are only required to pay a 5-percent gross income tax and are exempted from all other taxes.

Gross income tax is computed by deducting the direct cost of goods from the gross revenue.

The result would be the basis for computing the 5-percent tax, Henares said.

Some locators, however, were deducting other expenses from gross income, making these appear to be part of direct costs.

The proposed revenue regulation was hoped to remove the confusion in defining the basis for computing the gross income tax.

The Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce, however, said earlier that requiring locators to pay more taxes would adversely affect the government's agenda on job creation.

In response, Henares stressed that the BIR did not intend to collect new taxes from ecozone locators, but was strictly implementing the law on the 5-percent gross income taxation.

GSIS investment income hit ₱12.56B in July

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) earned P12.56 billion in the first seven months of the year, 89 percent more than the figure generated over the same period last year.

The surge in GSIS income was derived from interests on salary and policy loans, dividends from stocks, interests on bonds and bills, gains from the sale of assets, foreign exchange gains and income from GSIS daily stock trading activities.

From January to July last year, the GSIS recorded an investment income of P6.63 billion, which ballooned to P16 billion by end-2003 due to one-time gains.

With the seven-month investment income, GSIS expects to earn P21.53 billion for this year, 28 percent higher than the P16.84 billion registered last year.

As of end-July, the GSIS posted net earnings of P18.9 billion. GSIS sources could not immediately release comparative figures for last year.

The bulk of the system's investment revenues came from interests on loan facilities to members such as policy loans, salary loans and emergency loans, which totaled P7.29 billion in seven months.

GSIS earned P211 million from dividends on traded stocks from January to July, while interest on asset participation certificates reached P51.58 million. Dividend on non-traded stocks brought in another P821,609.

Interests on Philippine notes and bonds accounted for P3.96 billion, while interest on treasury bills stood at P731.94 million for the seven-month period.

Interests on corporate bonds was pegged at P23.28 million, while gains on the sale of traded stocks reached P273 million as the pension fund continued to actively trade in the market.

Foreign exchange gains stood at P18.05 million. In all, GSIS earnings from investments in government securities brought in P5.27 billion.

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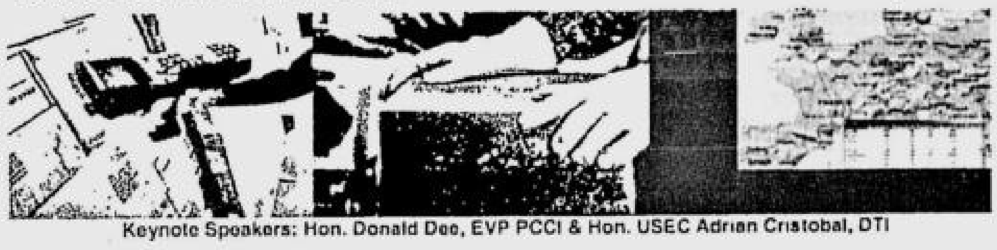

Keynote Speakers: Hon. Donald Dee, EVP PCCI & Hon. USEC Adrian Cristobal, DTI

Conference Topics and Speakers

Day 1, Sept 16 (Thursday)
- Keynote Speech – Hon. Donald Dee, EVP PCCI
- Keynote Speech – Hon. USEC Adrian Cristobal, DTI
- MOVE FORWARD FASTER BY EXTENDING THE VALUE OF YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN – Kevin Hill, SSA Global
- NEXT GENERATION SUPPLY CHAIN SOLUTIONS – Antonio Rivera, Mead Johnson
- PROCUREMENT OUTSOURCING: FINALLY REACHING THE STATUS OF A PROVEN PARADIGM – Charlie Villaseñor, TransProcure
- Launching of DMAP – DLSU Postgraduate Diploma in Logistics Management

Day 2, Sept 17 (Friday)
- LOGISTICS MANAGER: DEVELOPING THEIR CAPABILITIES – Ma. Teresa Ruiz, Zuellig Pharma Corp.
- STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – Gilda del Rosario, SAP Philippines
- SALES AND OPERATIONS PLANNING (S&OP): DRIVING 'GOLD' BUSINESS RESULTS AT SC JOHNSON – Nestor L. Felicio, SC Johnson & Son, Inc.(Phils.)
- SUPPLY CHAIN INNOVATION: COLLABORATING WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN – Philip G. Macahug, Johnson & Johnson
- SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES IN THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT – Lulu S. Guzman, Kraft Foods Phils. Inc.
- INNOVATING THE SUPPLY CHAIN, "THE SPLASH WAY" – Higinio P. Porte Jr., Splash Corporation

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 9, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	18	17.5	18	233,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	46.5	44.5	46	6,874,200
China Banking Corp.	535	540	535	540	680
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42.5	42.5	42	42	4,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.5	1,360,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27	27.5	206,700
Philippine National Bank	22.5	23.75	22.5	23.5	64,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	25,000
Security Bank Corp.	22	23.5	22	23.25	195,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	26	25	26	20,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.98	1.02	0.98	1.02	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2310	2320	2310	2320	1,150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	291,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	110	110	109	110	3,300
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1550	1550	1550	1550	1,010
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	22	21.5	22	35,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.7	0.68	0.7	3,720,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	995	1010	985	1010	118,920
Ipeople Inc.	1.52	1.6	1.52	1.58	253,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.048	0.045	0.048	6,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.039	11,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	370,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.7	2.7	16,072,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	270,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1375	1405	1375	1390	126,950
Ivantage Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67	1,230,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	355,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16.75	15.75	16	119,500
Manila Electric Co. B	24.75	25.5	24.75	24.75	4,397,200
Petron Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.85	1,214,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.44	575,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	1,515,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.41	2,300,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.24	3	2.24	2.7	16,140,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26	111,500
RFM Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.75	140,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	100,400
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	70.5	70.5	70.5	3,500
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	11	11	11	11	100,000
Universal Robina Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	37,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	17,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	6,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	18,608,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.5	220,000
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	0.026	0.028	0.026	0.027	2,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	280,000
APC Group Inc.	0.09	0.095	0.09	0.09	2,100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	94,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	40,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	24.5	24.75	24	24.75	3,349,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.63	0.59	0.59	32,110,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.135	0.135	7,690,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.3	8,050,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.16	0.2	0.16	0.17	25,310,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.18	2.26	2.06	2.06	10,453,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.033	2,000,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp	3.65	4	3.65	4	56,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	28.5	28.5	27.5	28	1,211,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0775	0.0775	28,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	365,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.84	395,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.28	1.28	52,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	2,700,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.34	1.26	1.28	12,594,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.6	0.63	0.52	0.53	144,930,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.17	1,420,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	60,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	800,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	240,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	20,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	6,040,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.195	0.215	0.18	0.215	2,290,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.21	0.225	2,220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.76	484,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.04	1.06	0.95	1.04	112,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	5,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.73	0.74	8,690,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	12.5	13	12.5	13	2,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	250,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	200,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	35	35	35	35	10,300
Manila Jockey Club	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	15,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	850,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	22	22.25	22	22	522,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.2	20,679,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	520,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.31	0.43	0.31	0.39	101,870,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.19	0.145	0.18	7,780,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.35	101,480,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	50,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.04	9,647,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.215	0.19	0.215	17,150,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.43	0.46	0.43	0.46	410,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	91,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	63,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	15,492,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	255,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1	1	1	1	9,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.235	0.215	0.225	6,330,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.3	0.26	0.3	10,940,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	202,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	337,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.006	0.0065	1,506,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.03	0.033	0.03	0.032	17,100,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,160,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.43	700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.013	0.011	0.013	1,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	38,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	325,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.005	0.005	0.0046	0.0048	158,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	8,800,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.85	77,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	600,000

CURRENCIES

September 9, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.820816	1.000000	56.1040
Japan	Yen	0.007507	0.009146	0.5131
United Kingdom	Pound	1.466388	1.786500	100.2298
Hongkong	Dollar	0.105237	0.128210	7.1931
Switzerland	Franc	0.651131	0.793273	44.5058
Canada	Dollar	0.636144	0.775014	43.4814
Singapore	Dollar	0.483858	0.589484	33.0724
Australia	Dollar	0.571958	0.696816	39.0942
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.177288	2.652590	148.8209
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218885	0.266667	14.9611
Brunei	Dollar	0.482435	0.587751	32.9752
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000108	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019731	0.024038	1.3486
UAE	Dirham	0.223485	0.272272	15.2755
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.218300	68.3515
Argentina	Peso	0.274062	0.333890	18.7326
Brazil	Real	0.282943	0.344709	19.3396
Denmark	Kroner	0.134478	0.163835	9.1918
India	Rupee	0.017748	0.021622	1.2131
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216033	0.263193	14.7662
Mexico	New Peso	0.070931	0.086415	4.8482
New Zealand	Dollar	0.532202	0.648382	36.3768
Norway	Kroner	0.119990	0.146184	8.2015
Korea	Won	0.000715	0.000871	0.0489
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024285	0.029586	1.6599

GMA takes credit for stocks surge

From page B1

sury. Bunye said the funds would only be used to reduce the budget deficit unless the donors specify where the funds should be used, such as construction of school buildings.

Aside from taking an aggressive stance in solving the fiscal crisis, Bunye said that the government had agreed to be more transparent about its finances by opening the government debt records to public scrutiny. "A good starting point to averting the crisis is knowing the full extent of the problem," Bunye said.

"We encourage the Senate to bring these to public view to ease speculations and at the same time, inform and educate the public about the serious financial challenges we are facing," Bunye said.

The Senate claimed that President Arroyo had incurred more debt than her two predecessors but Malacañang said the debts under the current administration were bloated by the depreciation of the peso versus the US dollar.

Investors continued to bet on favorable earnings prospects next year for telcos, fueled by the mobile phone market's expansion.

"The trend is still intact. Fears have been discounted. There's a hopeful outlook now," said DA Market Securities president Nestor Aguila.

The improved investor sentiment toward the country was also reflected in the positive reception to the Philippines' latest global bond sale yesterday, which raised $1 billion, compared to the target of $750 million.

With a report from AFP

Mrs. Mathay's windfall

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE FIRST wife of former Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., who still goes by the name of Sonya Mathay despite the couple's estrangement, is about to get her hands on more than 26 hectares of commercial land in Cavite plus P50 million cash.

At P1,148 a square meter, the land alone is valued at more than P300 million.

The windfall, a result of a proposed compromise agreement with the provincial government, becomes all the more spectacular since Mrs. Mathay and her partner, Dr. Eleuterio "Teyet" Pascual Jr., acquired the property only on Feb. 28 for a mere—this is not a misprint—P400,000.

Strangely, according to the deed of sale, Mrs. Mathay and Pascual bought the Cavite property from Goldenrod Inc., a company where Mrs. Mathay is listed as president.

The Mathay-to-Mathay+Pascual sale came only a day after Cavite Gov. Erineo Maliksi, based on court records, executed a compromise agreement with Mrs. Mathay and Pascual.

For over two decades now, the Cavite government has been involved in litigation with Goldenrod Inc. over the 26-hectare property in the provincial capital, Trece Martires City.

The contested property is part of the so-called De Villa lands that the provincial government expropriated in 1982. But then Gov. Juanito Remulla was only willing to offer 83 centavos a square meter for the raw lands, based on the owner's tax declaration; the De Villa family, on the other hand, was initially asking for P45 per sq.m.

After failing to win their price, the De Villas sued the Cavite government so the court could determine the property's just valuation. But only after a year, the De Villas turned around and sold the expropriated property to Goldenrod, with Jose Raymundo listed as president, for P2 million, or about P7.65 per sq.m.

In 1989, Goldenrod, with Mrs. Mathay this time listed as president, executed another absolute deed of sale over the same property with the De Villas, also for the same P2 million.

With the sale, Goldenrod now pursued the litigation started by the De Villas against the Cavite government.

The case dragged on for years, after the first court-appointed appraisal committee in 1993 recommended valuing the property based on 1993 real estate prices. The provincial government objected, arguing that the valuation should have been based on 1982 prices, when the complaint was filed, as provided by law.

The disputed property is part of the 39 hectares of the De Villa land that is now in the hands of both the Cavite and Trece Martires governments. A government-built sports complex, a forest park, a cemetery and a squatters' settlement have mushroomed on what had been cogon and pasture lands only two decades ago.

Despite the provincial government's objection, the second appraisal committee came up with an even higher valuation, at P2,800 per sq.m., based on the pre-currency crisis 1997 prices.

In the meantime, the fulcrum of power in the province had shifted, with Malicsi becoming governor in 2001.

To make a long story short, with the new governor predisposed toward a compromise agreement, the provincial attorney, Renato Ignacio, who had previously vigorously opposed the De Villas and Goldenrod, and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan have no choice but toe the new line.

A son of the former governor, now Vice Gov. Juanito Victor Remulla, remains the lone major stumbling bloc at the Sangguniian. The young Remulla, with the other two young Revillas in Congress, has vowed to continue his father's legacy and stick to the 1982 appraisal price, plus interest.

Because of a threat of possible plunder charge, the Trece Martires Sangguniang Panlunsod has withheld approval of the compromise agreement, despite Mayor Melencio de Sagun Jr. having already signed it.

According to the grapevine, without the Trece Martires Sanggunian imprimatur, the compromise agreement now pending at the city's Regional Trial Court remains just that—a piece of paper.

Heard through the grapevine

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura was a no-show at the mid-year economic briefing the other day, his medical leave having been extended by Malacañang up to the first week of October.

The governor, who had been missing from the local scene since Aug. 11, is now in the United States.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

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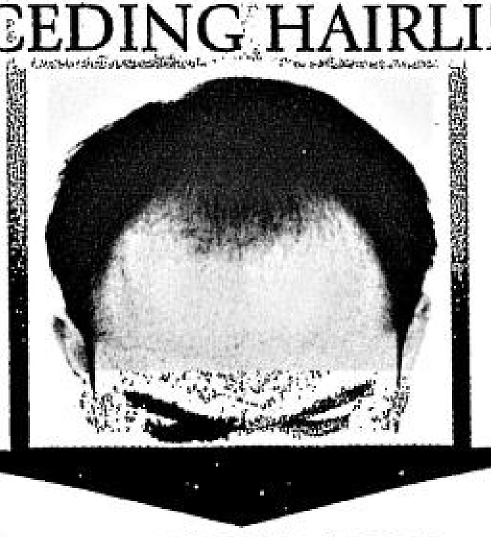

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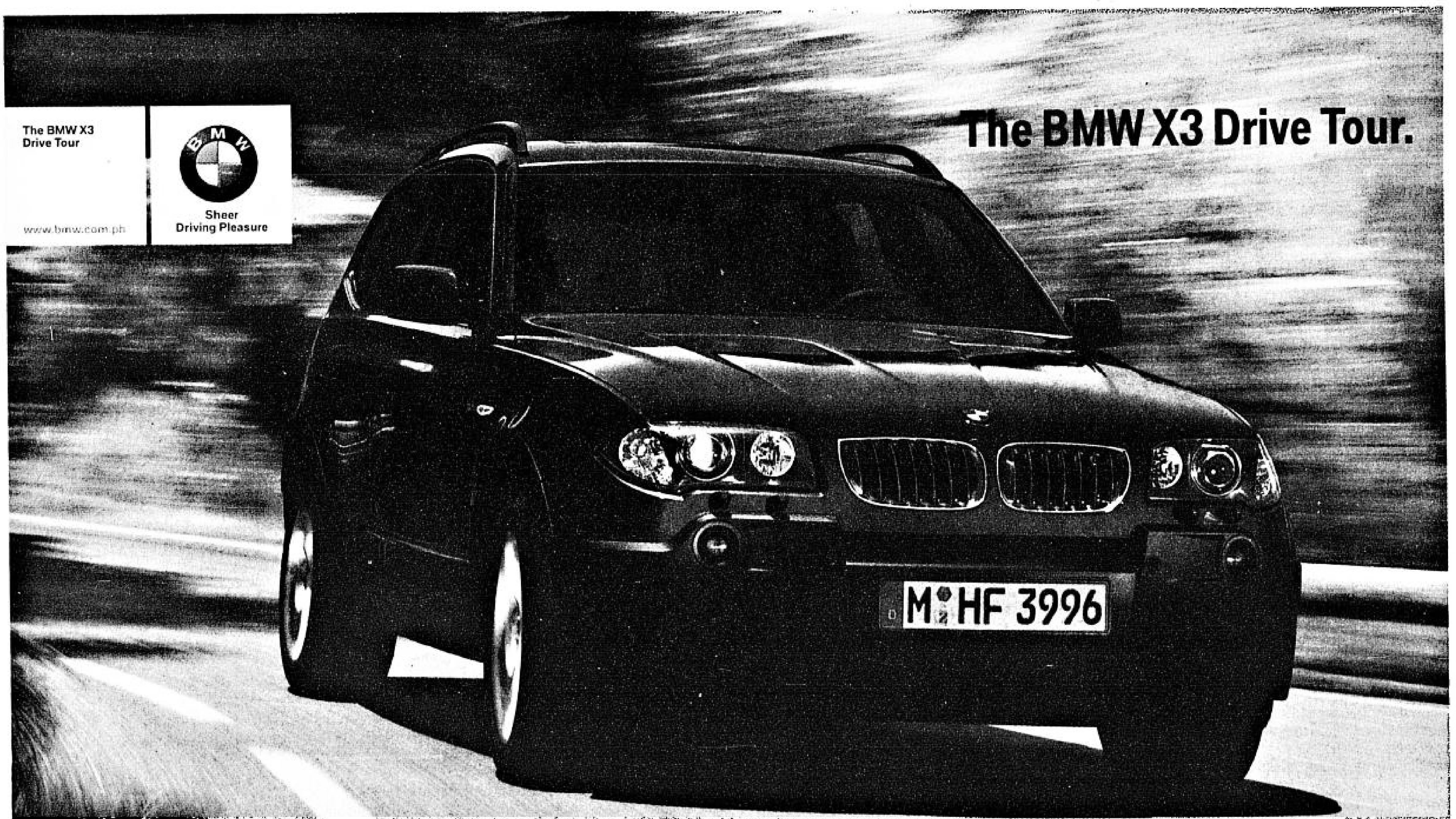

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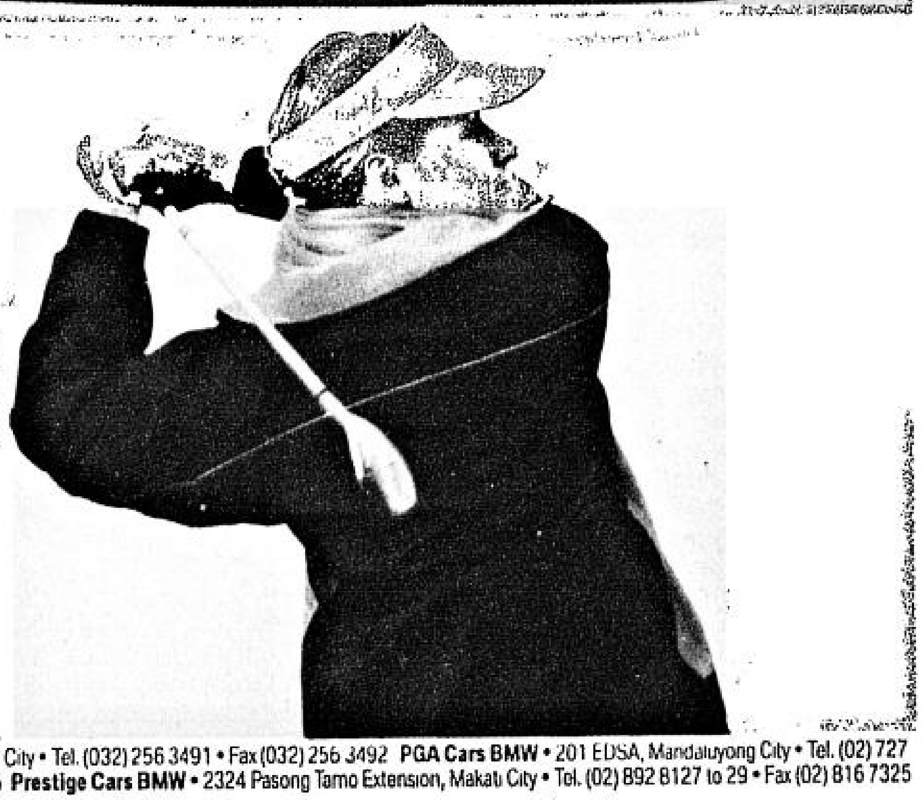

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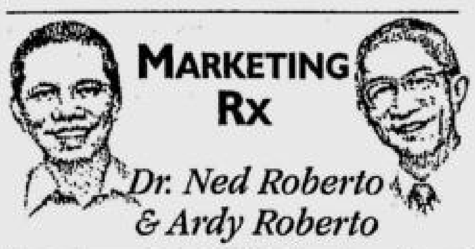
BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

The hard sell vs soft sell approach in advertising



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: "I OWN and manage a medium sized pharma company marketing mainly OTC products in the headache, cough-cold and vitamin categories. I have a small group of med reps who call on doctors, not to ask them to prescribe our OTC brands, but to at most recommend them to their patients, or at the very least acknowledge to patients that they know our brands and not to say anything bad about them.

I've sent two or three of my top performing med reps to professional selling seminars to know the latest in selling. When I ask those who attended the seminars to echo to their co-workers what they learned, I noticed two contrasting selling models. One group champions the "hard sell" approach. The other group stands for the opposite, the "soft sell" approach. Both groups present success applications of both selling models. Do you have any research showing which one is more effective than the other?"

A: We don't have or know of any good solid research on these two approaches in the selling field although there are a ton of good books with lots of case studies on some research on selling. One of them is by Ronald Marks who wrote a pretty good book titled "Personal Selling-A Relationship . Approach." (6th edition). Pearson Education Asia, Singapore. 2000. The junior MRx referred to the studies in this book as he wrote "S4: Success Secrets of the Sales Superstar" (available at National and Powerbooks.)

Allow us, though, to talk about some good research on the hard-sell and soft-sell models as they are applied in advertising. These studies are still of direct help to you because advertising is selling; it's another form of selling. Actually, marketing history tells us when advertising was born, it was then available only in print media because radio and TV were not yet around. Advertising was then defined and was known as "salesmanship in print."

Clusivol ad

"Hard sell" is a communication technique that Rosser Reeves of the Ted Bates Advertising Agency in the US developed in the late '40s. This approach called for directly associating a brand with a product benefit that is a priority to its target consumers. In the industry that you are in, this selling model finds an application, for example, in the Clusivol ad's associative linking of the brand with "Bawal magkasakit!" (getting sick is prohibited), that is, with the benefit of preventing illness. The classic example that is most often cited is Safeguard's ownership of the "germ-free" clean benefit.

The "big idea" model of advertising is a variant of the hard sell technique. Almost everyone in the advertising industry thinks it was David Ogilvy who invented the "big idea" concept. Advertising history tells us that its real pioneer was Leo Burnett. It's said that Ogilvy talked about it a lot more than Burnett. In the process, he came out to own it or at least was thought to own it.

Research on the hard sell model has shown that indeed, with enough repetition, hard sell links in the consumers' minds the brand with its claimed benefits. It is an effective communication tool when the brand applying it actually possesses the distinctive benefit that is a priority value to the consumers. A product benefit that has consumer priority value is what motivates consumers' product usage.

Revicon 3-step soft sell

On the other hand, "soft sell" has actually the same end in view, namely, to link the brand with a distinctive benefit important to the consumers. However, this communication technique goes after this end with a different means. It does the selling via a problem-solution story. The popularizer of this model is said to be Doyle, Dane and Bernback (DDB) who became known for this approach in the '60s. The structure of the plot in the problem-solution story is simple. It's in three steps: First, here's a consumer problem. Next, here's a story about that problem showing how it was solved. Third and finally, so here's the problem-solution.

Again, continuing with brands in your industry and staying in the vitamin category, this communication model finds expression in Revicon ad's "buhay na dugo" (the living blood) problem-solution story. The talents in the story-telling ad do not speak to the ad audience. In the ad, the problem is obvious. The drama ad shows a working man who gets easily tired and he traces this to his "dugo na kulang sa buhay" (blood that's short of life force). He then takes Revicon and his blood is given life. He now has the strength to carry on with his work.

Research has shown that this version of the soft sell is effective when the objective is to demonstrate product efficacy or to draw from the audience some sentiment or emotion related to the advertised product. But the effective demonstration comes from the element of realism and plausibility of the ad's dramatic elements. This is not difficult to do when the message is simple.

When there are many product information and facts to communicate, it's hard to get the ad talent to realistically communicate them in 30 seconds. In such a case, creative people in advertising found it useful to interrupt the ad drama with a lecture. The lecture uses a spokesperson, usually a figure of authority, to talk to the ad audience about the important product facts. This was the soft sell version that the successful relaunching ad of Sustagen used. The lecture about Sustagen's many benefits came from an appropriately attired "nutritionist" giving the ad audience a briefing on Sustagen's "24 resistencia builders."

The lessons

So the lessons and marketing Rx's that we can take out from this brief history of the hard sell versus the soft sell models of communicating are:

First, each technique is effective under appropriate conditions. The hard sell works well when your brand has a distinctive point of difference that is a priority value to consumers. On the other hand, take up the soft sell approach when you want to demonstrate your product's efficacy or when you wish to stir up some consumer feelings that can bond consumers to the brand. In using either model, be conscious of each one's variants and when to resort to any of them.

Feedback at MarketingRx@SaltandLightVentures.com or to 0919-314-5412.

Covey goes beyond the 7 habits

STEPHEN Covey, author of "The 7 Habits for Highly Effective People," is set to arrive in Manila on Nov. 19 to launch a new book.

"The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness," the fourth major work by Covey, comes at a time when the complexity we face in our personal lives, in our families, in our professions and in our organizations are most challenging.

Covey was in Manila in 1990 and 1994. The Center for Leadership and Change Inc. features Covey in two sessions on Nov. 19. For inquiries, call 8172726, 8400879, 4266489.

For justice and health

By Jose A. Osana
and Maximo H. Simbulan V
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

REPUBLIC Act No. 9238, which became a law on Feb. 5, 2004, expanded the scope of the VAT exemption under Section 109 of the Tax Code of 1997 to include the services rendered by doctors and lawyers. In 2003, the sale of services by persons engaged in the practice of profession or calling, including doctors and lawyers, became subject to the 10 percent VAT. However, with the enactment of RA 9238, the services rendered by doctors of medicine and lawyers are now excluded from the coverage of the 10-percent VAT.

Specifically, beginning Jan. 1, 2004, medical services rendered by doctors of medicine and legal services rendered by lawyers are no longer subject to the 10 percent VAT.

Services rendered by medical doctors

Under Revenue Regulations No. (RR) 7-2004 dated May 7, 2004, which implemented the provisions of RA 9238, medical services excluded from the coverage of VAT include doctors in good standing with the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC). Excluded are medical services rendered by general professional partnerships (GPPs) organized for the practice of the medical profession and whose partners are composed of doctors in good standing with the PRC.

In order to qualify for VAT exemption, the medical services involved are only those done by doctors. Reference may be made to RA 2382, also known as the Medical Act of 1959.

Section 8 of the Medical Act of 1959, states no person can practice medicine in the Philippines unless he is at least 21 years old, passed the board examination, and holds a valid Certificate of Registration. In this regard, Section 10 of the Medical Act of 1959 provides an enumeration of acts, which may constitute the practice of medicine. These acts include the physical examination, diagnosis, treatment, operation; or prescription of any remedy for human disease, injury, deformity, physical, mental, psychical condition or any ailment, real or imaginary, regardless of the nature of the remedy or treatment administered, prescribed or recommended. Relating this with RA 9238, as implemented by RR 7-2004, the VAT exemption arguably applies only to services by medical doctors that entail the practice of medicine.

Services rendered by lawyers

Under the same RR, the legal services specifically excluded from the coverage of VAT are limited to those rendered by lawyers of good standing with the IBP. Also covered by the exemption are the legal services rendered by GPPs organized solely and exclusively for the practice of law and which are entirely composed of lawyers duly registered with the IBP.

To be exempted from VAT, the legal services must be rendered by lawyers of good standing with the IBP. Thus, as far as lawyers are concerned, exemption from the 10 percent VAT may only be invoked, it seems, if the services rendered pertain to practice of law.

The Supreme Court, in several of its rulings, has already made a characterization of what a practice of law is. In the landmark case of Ulep vs. The Legal Clinic Inc. (B.M. No. 553 dated June 17, 1993), the Supreme Court took into account the general principles and doctrines explaining the meaning and scope of the term practice of law. Basically, practice of law means any activity, in or out of court, which requires the application of law, legal procedures, knowledge, training and experience.

The court further noted that the practice of law is not limited to the conduct of cases in court. The practice of law, the court said, includes legal advice and counsel, and the preparation of legal instruments and contracts by which legal rights are secured, although such matter may or may not be pending in court.

Applicability of the percentage tax

It must also be pointed out that the services by doctors and lawyers apart from being exempt from VAT are also exempt from the three 3 percentage tax.

When the 10 percent VAT was imposed on the gross receipts derived by persons engaged in the practice of a profession or calling, the VAT law provides that the VAT would not apply if the gross receipts do not exceed the threshold amount of P 550,000 per annum. In such a case, the 3 percentage tax should be imposed in lieu of the VAT. Section 116 of the Tax Code of 1997 states that a 3-percent tax is imposed on persons whose sales or receipts are exempt from VAT for not exceeding the gross annual sales/receipts of P 550,000 as provided under Section 109(z) of the Tax Code of 1997.

The imposition of the 3 percentage tax presupposes that the 10 percent VAT would have been imposed had it not been for the expected or actual inability of the taxpayer concerned to exceed the P550,000 limit.

With the categorical exemption from the 10 percent VAT of the services rendered by lawyers and doctors of medicine, exemption from the 3 percent percentage tax should, as a matter of course, follow.

Some administrative requirements

Qualified doctors of medicine and lawyers, including GPPs whether registered as a VAT taxpayer or a non-VAT taxpayer are required to update their corresponding records with the concerned BIR revenue districts on or before June 20, 2004, by filing the necessary registration update forms (BIR Form No. 1905) to convert their status from that of a VAT to non-VAT or non-percentage tax taxpayer for those whose services were not subject to VAT but to percentage tax.

Qualified medical doctors and lawyers are also required to submit not later than June 30, 2004 an inventory of unused receipts as of the date they register as a non-VAT taxpayer indicating the number of booklets and the corresponding serial numbers.

Conclusion

It merits emphasis that our need for the services of doctors and lawyers relates directly to our constitutionally enshrined right to life, liberty, and property and the higher costs for these services brought about by the imposition of taxes might be construed as an indirect limitation of these rights. With the passage of RA 9238, we would perhaps continue to have reasonable access, in terms of monetary cost, to the services of lawyers and doctors.

Visit a doctor for your venture

By Kathryn L. Reyes

WOULDN'T it be nice if you can find a doctor who can diagnose and help restore the health and well-being of your business?

The franchise and license clinic is one of the highlights of the Global Franchising and Licensing Show in Singapore on Sept. 15-17, which is organized by the Singapore Exhibition Services Ltd. The show is now on its sixth year and has made a name internationally as an important event for business opportunities and intellectual property rights.

Ben Wong, Singapore Exhibition's project director, says the franchise and license clinic aims to help visitors of the show—whether a small or medium scale enterprise, or an established company—diagnose their business problems, and with the help of a consultant, find solutions to their problems.

For this year's show, Wong's group engaged five different consultants to tackle five important aspects of the business—franchising, licensing, branding, financial and legal.

"It's a one-to-one correspondence," says Wong. "The consultants will personally speak with the businessmen, and will help them address their issues."

For the clinic's legal aspect, says Wong, the consultation and counseling will be done on a group basis.

Aside from that, Singapore Exhibition Services also incorporated a business matchmaking program in the show.

WONG

"We understand how busy the business people are. What we're trying to do is to help them fully utilize their time," Wong says. "That's why we came up with a system. We came up with this business matchmaking program, where our group facilitated a meeting between a specific franchisor and a corresponding franchisee."

Those who are willing to sell their products and/or concepts are prematched with those who are willing to purchase them, using a database of registered participants. This system will surely be helpful to those who want to maximize their time while they are at the conference.

Visitors who will come to the show will be able to "shop" around for products and concepts that they can bring back home. The large number of exhibiting companies ensures that a potential investor will have the chance to compare one product or concept with another. He or she will be able to choose carefully which product or concept will work best in a particular market.

A comprehensive lecture on licensing will be tackled as well in the International Conference on Licensing Strategies.

Wong says they are expecting 230 exhibitors from 22 countries, including the Philippines; compared with last year's 210 companies from 17 countries.

The show will also feature a mixture of concepts and license opportunities that firms want to bring to the Asian market.

Franchising is a booming business in the world. It is however important for one to learn the industry before getting a franchise.

The event provides a chance for Filipino businessmen to learn more about franchising and evaluate their capacity to venture in the international market.

"The Asian market is going into a very exciting phase. China for example experienced a 40 percent growth from 2001 to 2002," said Wong. He cited the number of Chinese franchises expanded across 15 sectors and rose to about a thousand two years ago.

Even the Philippines had its share of growth in the industry. Although compared to China, the Philippines' growth is a little slower with 150 franchise operators in 1995 to 625 this year.

Two Filipino companies—Empire International Merchandising Corp., which markets brands like Zorro, Star Trek characters, Christina Aguilera and Destiny's Child, and Philippine Franchising Association—will each have a booth in the show.

Computerization hikes city's tax take

EVERYONE wants to have an efficient government.

To achieve this systems are needed. Efficiency in the management of local affairs, administration and monitoring of resources, requires a systematic data processing and record management of revenues, expenditures and resources. This is what Toledo City, Cebu, had in mind—to have a fully computerized and integrated system to automate its current method of tax collection.

Choosing the right partner for the full automation of its real property taxes and business tax collection was vital.

Accounts of failed implementations within municipalities and cities of the Visayas region intimidated local leaders and their staff.

Local leaders considered the services of the DBP-Data Center Inc., an associate of well-known solution providers for local government units Microcircuits Corp. (MCC) and Systems & Plan Integrator & Development Co. (SPIDC). Both were responsible for several successful implementations in key cities, municipalities and even a provincial capitol.

Three key factors were identified to achieve the objectives of the project: change management, process reengineering and training. These components were considered after the site preparation, consultations and goal setting were done with the staff and department heads.

With very cooperative and hard-working members of the workforce of Toledo City, the targeted six months implementation was achieved in a record-breaking timeframe of 60 days. Within this time span, the solution providers DBP-DCI, MCC and SPIDC, successfully established a fully automated working environment in the offices of Toledo City. The new government application system was placed in five offices of the city hall—the assessor's office, the business permit and licensing office, the treasury office and its land tax division, and the accounting department, to which the accounting software was given for free.

The result is the full integration of the five offices, saying goodbye to the old, slow manual process and welcoming the establishment of an on-line transaction process "OLTP" which created a common database among the departments of the Toledo City government.

Toledo City Mayor Arlene E. Zambo was delighted to find out that a surprising 134-percent increase in revenue was generated in the business permits alone within six weeks of implementation by DBP-DCI's solution providers, MCC and SPIDC. This was possible because of the record-tracking and audit-trailing capabilities of the installed computerized system.

Toledo City Treasurer Eleuteria Alvarez says: "With the increase in revenue, we can easily work on the needs of our people."

In April 2003, records show that the collected tax amounted to only P1,31 million. With the new system in place, a whopping P3.07 million worth of tax collection was declared in April 2004—an amazing increase of 134.29 percent or P1.76 million. The increase was traced to the use of the new system and the political will of the leaders of Toledo City. The increase would mean more infrastructure projects and more investors, both foreign and local, would be attracted to Toledo City.

Zambo is thinking of using another system for Budget and Management to promote transparency in her government. With these new computerized systems, every transaction will be automated; government personnel shall be more productive; more efficient and effective in the delivery of public service to its constituents.

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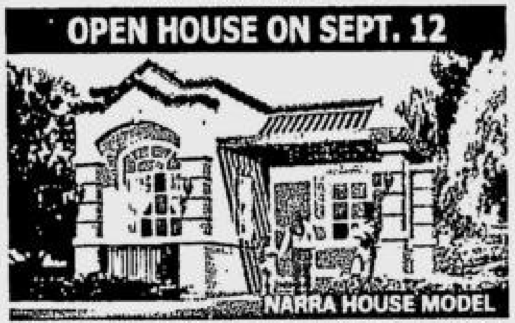

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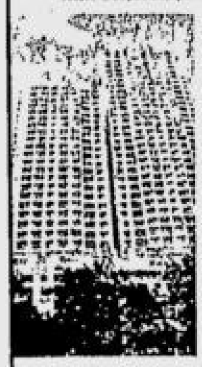

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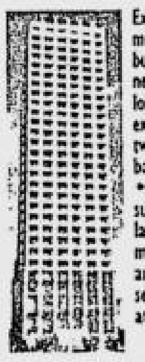

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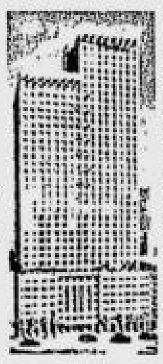

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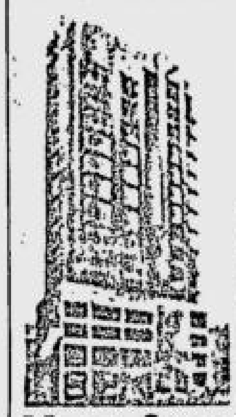

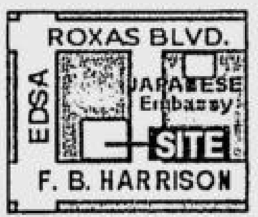

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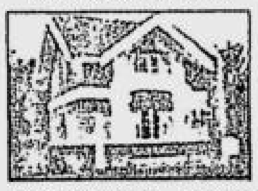

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late MANUEL Q. ALCANTARA and CONSUELO VELASCO ALCANTARA has been extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc. No. 431, Page No 87, Book No. 424, Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty. Lucila M. Lawas-Yulok of Pasig City.
(PDI-Sept. 9,16 & 23, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost alien certificate of registration issued to Dayaldas Pribhdas by Bureau of Immigration on July 9, 1996 MNL(PDI-July 7-11, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A team of Entrepreneurs will be visiting Bohol,Cebu&Makati to introduce an Int'l Business model that's expanding fast.Text bk @ 0919-8967737 to Reserve

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BE AN ENTREPRENEUR, START YOUR OWN AGENCY NOW W/O CAPITAL! 0919-8691481

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earnextranow.com code:atb2004 8531008 09178901851 Arlene

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HAIR DRESSER FEMALE SM MEGAMALL 0917-8398638

MALE/FEMALE

Immediate Hiring: Contact Joyce • 0917-8353019 Cooks, Waiters, Bartenders

JOB HIRING 09196913491 IRA

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More Classified Ads on Page A10

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 106, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ISSUANCE OF DECREE OF ADOPTION OF MINORS FERDINAND PAULO and PAULA DENISE BOTH SURNAMED PAJARIT

SP. PROC. NO. Q-04-53154

JUDITH R. PAJARIT,
Petitioner.
x- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -x

ORDER OF HEARING

A verified Petition was filed by Judith R. Pajarit, thru counsel, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered declaring her to be the adoptive parent of minors FERDINAND PAULO and PAULA DENISE, both surnamed PAJARIT.

Petition alleges, inter alia:

Petitioner is a former Filipino citizen, of legal age, now a citizen of the United States of America, permanently residing at 48 Mateo Avenue Daly City, California, USA and presently residing in the Philippines at 183-B J.P. Rizal St., Project 4, Quezon City; that she is single, with no legitimate, illegitimate or other adopted children or descendants; that she desires to adopt minors Ferdinand Paulo, 13 years old and Paula Denise, 6 years old, her relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity; that minors biological parents are Ferdinand Llaneza Estojero and Jovelin Miriam Austria Pajarit, that she is the maternal aunt of minors' mother; that she is in possession of full civil capacity and legal rights, of good moral character, has not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude and emotionally and psychologically capable of caring for children; that she is more than 16 years older than the minors and is definitely in a much better position to support and care for the minors in keeping with the means of the family; that she has been employed by the huge telecommunications company AT&T as Technical Consultant in the United States; that the biological parents of the minors are not married and are now formally separated from each other and they are without any steady income to financially support the rearing and education of the minors; that she is shouldering the necessary expenses of the minors for their rearing and education; that minor Ferdinand Paulo is now 13 years old, has voluntarily and knowingly given his written consent and is enrolled at St. Francis Academy of Quezon City while minor Paula Denise is studying at Trinity College of Quezon City; that minors' biological parents are not insane, nor intemperate, nor have they abandoned said minors and with full knowledge of petitioner's intention; that they expressly give their written consent to the adoption of the minors to the petitioner.

WHEREFORE, finding the Petition being sufficient in form and in substance, the same is given due course and is hereby set for hearing on October 6, 2004 at 8:30 a.m., at which date and time any interested person may appear and show cause, if any, why the Petition should not be granted.

Let copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in an accredited newspaper of general circulation in Quezon City and in Metro Manila, before the hearing once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

The Court Social Worker is hereby directed to prepare a case study on the petitioner, the minors sought for adoption as well as the latter's biological parents and to conduct counseling session to them on the matter of adoption and to submit her reports on or before the scheduled hearing.

Petitioner is hereby directed to coordinate with the assigned Court Social Worker to facilitate the preparation of the case study.

SO ORDERED

Quezon City, 20 July 2004.

(Sgd.) NATIVIDAD GIRON-DIZON
Judge

(PDI – Sept. 10, 17 & 24, 2004)

LCR FORM 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that LONNIE LEE A. MANGUBAT has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from MAE to LOUDEE MAE in the Certificate of Live Birth of MAE GARCIA AVILES who was born on February 27, 1973 at Makilala, Cotabato.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than September 6, 2004

(Sgd.) NORMA S. DIPUTADO
City Civil Registrar

(PDI – Sept. 3 & 10, 2004)

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

- Located at I-A Masagana St., Quirino Hi-way Manotok Subd., Baesa, Quezon City
- 2,735.61 sq.m. whose w/ 10.56 meters high ceiling
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- Use in manufacturing environmental friendly, tableware products such as plates, bowls, etc.
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For inquiries pls. call
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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. 2004-050

PD Ref. No.: PB040705-RM0092 /
PR No.: ITASD-04-007394

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TransCo), BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE (BAC) FOR HEAD OFFICE,** invites local bidders/ contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
    a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
    b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
    c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
    d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

    The abovementioned contractors should have the following valid and current License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB.

    License : at least "Category D"
    Registration : at least "SMALL B"
2. Contract : **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LABOR, MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, TOOLS AND OTHER INCIDENTALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROAD AT SAN ISIDRO RELAY STATION, LABRADOR, PANGASINAN.**
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents that would be issued.

    The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is ***P1,999,493.20*** to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting **September 10, 2004 to September 27, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat, National Transmission Corporation, MMD, G/F Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon presentation of original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of **TWO HUNDRED Pesos (P200.00)** per copy.
5. Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent, duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. of September 28, 2004** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. Opening of the Eligibility Envelope shall be on **September 29, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.** If the said date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Eligible bidders shall be notified on or before **October 6, 2004.**
6. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by eligible bidders from **October 7, 2004 to November 3, 2004** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **THREE HUNDRED Pesos (P300.00).**
7. Pre-Bid Conference for the submission of Technical and Price Proposals will be held on **October 21, 2004, 10:00 a.m.** at National Transmission Corporation, Admin Conference Room, G/F, Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
8. Submission of Technical and Price Proposals of eligible bidders shall be at **10:00 a.m. on November 4, 2004** at National Transmission Corporation, Admin Conference Room, G/F, Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted. The technical and price proposals will be opened immediately in the presence of Bidder's representative who chooses to attend.
9. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Act.
10. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposals is most advantageous to the government.
11. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 10 & 16, 2004)

ERRATUM

In the advertisement of the Senate of the Philippines re: Invitation to apply for eligibility and to bid that came out last September 6, 2004 under **Service Contract No. 4 – Internet Subscription** we inadvertently printed its Allocation as **Php810,000.00** instead of **Php1,200,000.00**

Our apologies.

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) invites all interested Deep Well Drillers to register for eligibility and to bid for the "Drilling and Installation of Communal Wells" at the Suburban Housing Project, in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Eligibility requirements may be obtained from the Technical Services Group, 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, with telephone nos. 895-9015 to 16 and fax no. 897-4737, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00).

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Scope of Work	Drilling and Installation of 58 Communal Wells (Hand Pump type)
Approved Budget for the Contract	Php1,624,000.00 (sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of HGC)
Submission of Letter of Intent and Issuance of Bid documents	September 20-23, 2004
Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements	September 23, 2004
Issuance of Notice of Eligible Bidders	October 7-8, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference	October 27, 2004
Opening of bids	November 08, 2004

Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00).

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of HGC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any effect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to HGC. HGC likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) ARTHUR G. TAN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 10 & 17, 2004)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio,
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines MCPO Box 2102
Telephone No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

2004-2006 CONTRACT FOR ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE FOR FORT BONIFACIO (2 YEARS) EDC04-114

The Approved Budget is P2,934,800.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 2 year.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o I. M. Corcuera) starting **August 31, 2004** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held **on September 17, 2004, 10:00 a.m.** at the CAC Conference Room, at the above address.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. of September 30, 2004** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI – September 10, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for
Information Technology (BAC-IT)
Quezon City

September 10, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	:	PROCUREMENT OF FORTY (40) NOTEBOOKS
Location of the Project	:	Bureau of Internal Revenue
Contract Duration	:	Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award
Approved Budget	:	P5,000,000.00
Source of Funding	:	e-Government Fund

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from the BAC-IT Secretariat, c/o Room 605, 6/F, BIR-National Office Bldg., BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City starting **September 10, 2004**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **September 24, 2004, Friday** at **2:00 p.m.**, at the **Executive Conference Room**, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **October 6, 2004, Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.**, to be held at the **Executive Conference Room**, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City to be followed by the opening of the bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPQS at Room 302, 3/F, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4101, 981-7079, 981-7080 and 928-3235 (telefax) or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) ATTY. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS
Assistant Commissioner - HRDS
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI - Sept. 10 & 17, 2004)

OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
FREE OBIT DESIGN

In Loving Memory
On the 1st year Death Anniversary of

JUAN "JOHNNY" ISAAC B. JABILE

September 14, 1945 – September 10 2003

"We love and miss you Daddy"

His loving wife **Corazon Patio Jabile**; daughters **Maria Cielito** and **Maria Concepcion**; son **James Jonathan**, son-in-law **Jorge Molo**; brothers and sisters; and other relatives and friends request prayers

For the eternal repose of his soul, Holy Mass will be offered on September 10 (Friday) at 6 pm, at Sacred Heart Parish in Sct. Fuentebella cor Sct Ybardolaza, Kamuning, Quezon City.

Whoever
finds his life
will lose it,
and whoever
loses his life
for my sake
will find it.
Matthew 10:39

Rosario Kapunan Repulda

of Tacloban City and Las Piñas City

Beloved mother of Sandra, Rosalinda, Rinalisa, Ruby, Boy and Lyndon, peacefully joined our Creator on September 6, 2004 at the age of 90.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Parañaque City. Interment will be on September 12, 2004 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

MANUEL "NOLI" T. TOMACRUZ, JR.

Peacefully joined the Lord on September 8, 2004 at the age of 46.

His bereaved parents **Manny & Nena**; brothers and sisters **Cynthia, Ariel & Vicky, Laura, Liza & Ronnie, Ruby & Peter, Frances & Jonas**; nieces & nephew **Rachelle, Nicole, Geoffrey & Cara**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

Cremation will be on Saturday, September 11, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. at the Loyola Guadalupe following the 2:30 p.m. Mass in Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
SUCAT, Parañaque - HOLY CROSS, Novaliches - DASMARIÑAS, Cavite
Plaridel, BULACAN - Liloan, CEBU - Ma-a, DAVAO
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OBITUARIES

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Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

Bobby,

Fourteen years have passed,
and memories of you continue to last
deep within our hearts and thoughts
your love lingers and is never lost.

Fourteen years have flown by,
I look at the life we've built and sigh,
How I wish you to be here to see
How your dreams are turning to reality.

In my heart I know your spirit lives on,
As your children have angels of their own,
Four grandchildren to carry-on
The faith and love we shared early on.

Minnie

ROBERTO (Bobby) G. JONGCO

In Loving Memory

on the 14th Anniversary of **Roberto "Bobby" G. Jongco's** re-union with the Lord, the following masses will be offered today for his eternal rest.

Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish Church, ... 6:30 A.M.
Sta. Ana, Manila 6:30 P.M.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church, ... 6:00 A.M.
Philam Village, Las Piñas

St. Don Bosco Parish Church, ... 6:00 P.M.
Makati City

Minnie, Rovi & Sheila, Tina & Nolan wish to thank our relatives and friends who have been praying for **Bobby's** peace in the garden of our Lord.

"I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

Our Dearly Beloved

Araceli "Cely" Adalla Rivera

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace & Goodness of the Lord on the 8th day of September 2004 at the age of 74.

She is survived by her husband **Fred**; children **Kuyang, Jinggoy & Lyn, Junjo & Bing, Nong & Irene, Neng & Ricky, Chi-Chi & Tutut**, and **Mark**; grandchildren **Mobbie, Chax, Renci, Tyrone, Kyle, Lucy, Chia**, and **Nong-Nong** request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels,
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 12, 2004 at
Eternal Gardens Memorial Park immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

On this, the 10th day of September, 2004,
the Third Month Anniversary of the tragic demise of

HON. VOLTAIRE (Butch) Y. ROSALES

we, together with his bereaved family, **Atty. Nena Legaspi-Rosales** and her children **Vic** and **Lala**, and his brothers, sister, in-laws and relatives.

request all readers to join us in praying to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that Justice be given to Judge Butch Rosales, that the Sacred Heart of Jesus touch the hearts of the hardened criminals involved in the murder of Judge Butch Rosales and that healing peace come upon the bereaved family and our country.

Please join us in the celebration of Mass at 6:00 p.m. September 10, 2004 (Friday) at Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati City.

Rene L. Ledesma
President
Santuario de San Antonio Parish Council

Joey Soriano
Head, Eucharistic Minister

Carlo Lopez
President, Men of the Sacred Heart

Randy Limjoco
Cluster Leader, Makati South A
Couples for Christ

JOSE VIRATA GARCIA

of Kawit, Cavite, and Gapan, Nueva Ecija

(Founder - Sujo Marble Corporation and J.V. Garcia Philippine Handicrafts)

*Has joined his loving wife **Susana Ramos-Garcia** on Sep. 8, 2004 at the age of 78 and peacefully rests in the eternal presence of our Lord*

Children **Renato** & **Julie Rabago, Minda** & **Edwin Arcilla**

Grandchildren **Renalie** & **Nam Ho, Joanna** & **Ric Pan**
Jay & **Charlotte Passera, Vince, Louie** and **MM**

Great-grandchildren **Mathew, Alex, Sydney, Noah** and **Emily**

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the
Santuario de San Jose Church mortuary, Buffalo St., East Greenhills
until Sunday, September 12, and will be transferred
to Gapan, Nueva Ecija, after the 2:00 pm Mass.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 14, 2004,
at the Gapan Memorial Garden after the 9 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

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and bank-to-bank payments

"I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart and glorify your name forever; for your love to me has been great. You have saved me from the depths of the grave."
(Taken from Psalm 86)

Forever in our hearts...

We remember our beloved

ATTY. JOSE SANTIAGO ATIENZA

Knight of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvestre

who joined his Creator on 10 September 1998.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated today in the following churches:

Villa San Miguel Chapel
VSM Compound, Mandaluyong City .... 6:15 AM
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church
Welfareville, Mandaluyong City .... 6:00 AM
St. Peter's Parish Church, Apalit, Pampanga .... 6:00 AM
Adoration Convent of the Divine Mercy/Pink Sisters
Tagaytay City .... 6:30 AM
Parish of the Resurrection
BF Homes I, Parañaque City .... 6:30 PM

His wife, **Esther M. Cacnio**; his children/in-laws: **Paz, Jun** and **Rae, Manny** and **Rona** and **Michael**; and his grandchildren: **Junella, Julianne, Justinne, Lyka, Mico** and **Tricia** request the pious readers to say a prayer for his eternal repose.

Benita Abracosa Banguis

Died on September 7, 2004

She is survived by her husband, **Jesus "Jess" L. Banguis**; children **Jess Jr.** and **Tita, Gie** (†), **Cynthia** and **Catch Catchillar, Fatima** (†) and **Lito Bernardo** (†), **Chit** and **Lito Cabrera**; grandchildren **Khriz** and **Raffy Cabrera; Chiqui** and **Greg Bell; Dino** and **Lynn Banguis; Cali** and **Bruce; Candy** and **Drew; Catchie, Charleston; Angel** and **Rey; Bong, Joy, Lala, Kai**; and great grandchildren.

The family requests relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies at Don Bosco Chapel HOPE. Interment will be on Sunday, September 12, 2004, 10 a.m. after the holy mass at South Cemetery.

"I beg of thee at the hour of my death to receive me, a Pilgrim and an exile returning to thee, Amen."

Our Dearly Beloved Nanay

MERCEDES "Dedes" C. SORIANO

of Greenheights, Marikina City

*Peacefully joined the Lord and her husband **Mariano G. Soriano** on September 7, 2004 at the age of 86.*

Her children **Bellie & Ding Ocampo; Penny & Rene Cuejilo, Mely & Ben Guanzon, Lina, Nilo & Terry Soriano, Boy, Nilda, Prescy & Thom Sutherland, Eric, Tong & Annette Soriano**; brother **Crising** & sister **Tanching**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at #18 Peru St., Marikina Greenheights Subd., Concepcion, Marikina City.

Interment will be at 2 pm on Sunday, September 12, 2004 at Paraiso Memorial Park.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

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A promising private sector initiative

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

DURING the last meeting of the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Anti-Smuggling (Cocas) on Aug. 25, it was announced that the regular Wednesday meetings would be terminated.

This was because the Cocas, the National Anti-Smuggling Task Force (NASTF), and the Anti-Smuggling and Intelligence Center (ASIIC) were to be abolished.

The private sector representatives of Cocas expressed their disappointment when they heard the announcement.

They passed a resolution acknowledging the effective work of the three anti-smuggling bodies.

And they did not stop there. They announced that they would continue the biweekly anti-smuggling meetings the Cocas had institutionalized.

They would also invite the same government representatives of Cocas to their Wednesday meetings.

Instead of a government-led venture, it would now be a private sector initiative called the Multi-Sectoral Coalition Against Smuggling (MCAS).

The MCAS is jointly undertaken by the Federation of Philippine Industries, the Alyansa Agricultura and the Fair Trade Alliance.

Last Sept. 8, the MCAS called their first meeting. Prior to the assembly, the private sector members were afraid that government would send low level representatives, and would not be as supportive as they were before.

They were also afraid that only peripheral issues would be addressed.

As it turned out, their fears were groundless.

High level representation

High level government officials attended the assembly, as in previous Cocas meetings.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes (who used to be Cocas chair), Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima were ably represented during the MCAS meeting.

Also, Finance Undersecretary Noel Bonoan and Interior Undersecretary Mel Rosales contributed much in the course of the meeting.

One key official, Commissioner George Jereos of the Bureau of Customs, could not come.

But he sent Deputy Commissioner Ray Allas as well as the heads of all the units involved in anti-smuggling.

The private sector leaders said that, as taxpayers, they were entitled to government support.

However, they added that they were pleased at the measure of support the government had shown by sending high level government representatives to the meeting.

10-point program

During the meeting, the MCAS secretariat proposed a 10-point program, the results of which the members expected within 30 days.

In many instances, the government representatives suggested more ambitious actions. They even suggested that the target completion dates be met before the next MCAS meeting on Sept. 22.

At one point, an undersecretary challenged a business leader to speed up a proposed procedure that would enable the private sector to assist the BOC role in the audit of Customs Bonded Warehouses (CBWs) where the bulk of the smuggling occurred.

The government-private sector interaction turned into a mutually supportive undertaking, encouraging teamwork and delineating accountabilities regarding deadlines.

Substantive issues

The MCAS assembly also achieved a breakthrough with the Inward Forward Manifest (IFM).

The IFM is a document that lists the goods coming in from abroad on a specific vessel. An electronic copy is given to the Bureau of Customs at least two days before the shipment's arrival, while a hard copy is provided upon arrival.

For many years, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry wanted access to these IFMs.

This would have enabled them to effectively monitor the shipments and prevent smuggling.

Last March, the ASIIC under the supervision of Secretary Angelo Reyes got access to the IFMs.

At the MCAS meeting last Wednesday, the private sector proposed that the DA and DTI secretaries should also be given access.

The government representatives supported this proposal. They agreed to report on this within two weeks.

In addition, they would explore the possibility of providing IFMs to private sector representatives selected by the DA and DTI officials.

This would be an added check in preventing the entry of undeclared smuggled goods, estimated to be at least $10 billion.

Still hopeful

Jess Arranza, a key MCAS leader who has probably done the most to combat smuggling, is still hopeful that the three government anti-smuggling bodies will be restored.

Whether or not this happens, it is still fortunate that the private sector is continuing the fight against smuggling.

It is only with government support, such as that shown in the last MCAS meeting, that the promise may eventually turn into a reality.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

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Distinctly Dries

It is not easy to wear Van Noten, but, as they say, once a customer, always a customer

By Kitty Go
Contributor

IF there is a single label that consistently epitomizes "jetsetting hippie," it has to be Antwerp-based Dries Van Noten.

One of the few designer labels that have not succumbed to publicly owned multi-labeled fashion conglomerates, Dries, as fans call it, opened for business in 1985 in a small shop. In 1989, its current two-story flagship was established in Antwerp, Belgium, in a building dating from the 1880s.

It is not easy to wear Dries Van Noten, but as they say, once a customer, always a customer. For one, it is not a "polished" or "glamorous" line. Van Noten usually bases his collections on rich, exclusively woven and embroidered fabrics that look and feel more New Mexico than New York, more Dalai Lama than Donald Trump.

The Dries Van Noten woman is not driven by editorial must-haves or fashion endorsed by celebrities. The line hardly ever advertises and is seldom included in magazine editorials.

Yet, it has an ultra-fashionable and faithful following of confident men

DISTINCTLY/C4

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MAKATI-AYALA Zonta Club gals: (seated) vice governor Jovy Rodriguez, Rennie Andrews, outgoing president Maridel Villavicencio, president Betsy Tenchavez, Nini Valdez and Bing Carrion-Buck; (standing) Marivic de los Reyes, Helen Pratts, Katrina Valdez-Cruz, Beth La O, Singapore Airlines' Rita Dy, Puregold's Odette Ong, Jing Sarao, Chacha Camacho, Nini Layug, Cynthia Reyes, Mila Tanchi and Tessie Santos

These sisters are doing it for themselves

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

THOSE civic-minded and charity-oriented gals from that chi-chi Zonta Club of Ayala, Makati, had their eighth Induction Rites at the Hidalgo function room in Rockwell Center a fortnight ago, *palanggas*. Installed as the club's eighth president was winsome beauty and Maryknoller **Betsy Basa Tenchavez**, who promises to "reinvent the contingent I will be heading for Biennium 2004-06."

Hotshot Zonta members were there. Leading the troops were Gov. **Dandy Gomez, Virma Vergel de Dios, Lyn Sunico, Cora Oliver, Chiqui Server, Linda Villanueva, Mila Abad** and **Maritess Pineda**.

Socialite **Nini Valdez**, in her opening remarks, challenged her fellow members "to continue to make a difference, a difference that copes with the changing time and circumstances in our society." She called on all "to have a closer look on how to effectively reach to the less privileged sector of our society."

These caring lunch-bunch of women, indeed, are out to make a difference, starting with their all-orange get-up on induction night, and their electrifying invocation ("The Prayer," an original duet by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli) performed by **Cyrian Buligan** and **Aileen Abiera**.

The predominantly orange reception hall was set up by outgoing Zonta president **Maridel Villavicencio**, the queen of Kamayan and Dad's. The color of fire should show that these ladies are indeed all fired up.

Heritage living

It was like turning our history book back to the chapter of the last century. The Casa Manila in historic Intramuros was the perfect setting for the launching of a project dedicated to heritage, natch!

The prestigious Filinvest Land spared none to impress the media and clientele in its project to recreate the values and traditions of the township concept of Jose Rizal's era, *palanggas*.

"Ciudad de Calamba is indeed designed to bring back the elements of that generation's lifestyle which revolved around the church, home, school, work and play," explained sharp and cyber-smart **Annie Ringor**.

Not one, not two, but four residential villages have sprung up around the classic town plaza. There's Vista Hills 1 and 2, catering to first-home residents. Punta Altezza is designed for the upwardly mobile young family, and Montebello is the choice for *balikbayans* and residents from within Laguna, who wish to experience the modern amenities of the new-generation township.

The Old-World setting of Casa Manila, embellished with period furniture, chandeliers and ornaments, blended well with Ciudad de Calamba's sepia backdrops showing that beautiful bygone era.

Lending their fantastic presence to this happening were Jose Rizal's famille descendants, no less, dahlings, such as **Barbara "Tweetums" Gonzalez**, who is a descendant of Maria Rizal; and **Edith Azurin** and **Marlene Lopez Jacinto**, who are descendants of Paciano Rizal.

Also there were **Lydia Castillo** and **Zeny Silva**, whose mother belonged to a *tres* prominent clan in Biñan, Laguna.

Filinvest Land president Joseph Yap proudly unveiled Ciudad de Calamba, together with its first settlers—**Teresita Solirio, Edita Ramos** and **Sonny Durca** of 8M Plastics Technologies, which is at the Filinvest Technological Park.

Adding a hometown touch to the event was everyone's favorite *sorbetero* serving the popular "dirty ice cream" and the typical provincial vendors passing around "*kakanin*" for dessert.

I was reminded of another real-estate launching where this very married mega-realtor was in a huddle with another gentleman, also quite a woman chaser, and *moi*. The realtor said, "You must always remember this: There are two kinds of women. The kind we got married to and the other kind we never stop dreaming about."

Oh la! la!

Call Ciudad de Calamba at 7221032 (for residential inquiries) and 8076729 local 212 (for industrial and commercial inquiries).

Catholic tea party

The energetic women of the Catholic Women's Club are always on the roll, organizing charity functions and events. In fact, they just hosted a nostalgic night of Broadway music to celebrate their 83rd annual tea party at the Polo Club.

The show was utterly delightful. It performed excerpts from "My Fair Lady" with **Chinggoy Alonzo** as Prof. Higgins, **Reli German** and **Leo Martinez** as Mr. Doolittle and **Myrna Borromeo** as Eliza Doolittle. The latter surprised everyone with her super-professional voice.

After the applause died down, the brilliant choreographer **Jeremy Vallejo** came out and took his well-deserved bow, *palanggas*.

As in most of CWC's affairs, we all stood up for the invocation by Msgr. **Matt Garcia** of Tayuman, Tondo. **George Drydale** played the trumpet during the prayer.

The dynamic CWC president, **Alice Briones**, thanked and acknowledged the organizing committee chair, **Tessie Amparo**, and the members—**Celine Bautista, Fanny Blanco, Lita Gelano** and **Linda Villadelgado**—"for the most orderly and enjoyable tea party CWC ever had."

Then came the induction of 10 new members by CWC special adviser, glamorous **Meldy Cojuangco**, followed by the awarding of certificates of merit to those who had served the club for the past 50 years by **Ellen Binay**, wife of Makati Mayor **Jejomar Binay**.

TWO HOTSHOTS. Arnold Canaria, Ciudad de Calamba project group head, and Filinvest Land Inc. president Joseph M. Yap

KAREN Parungo (right) briefs Elsa Payumo on the Ciudad de Calamba project.

SISTERS TWO. Lydia Castillo and Zeny Silva

THE GANG of four. Barbara "Tweetums" Gonzalez, Toni Gregory, Marlene Lopez Jacinto and Edith Azurin

SPECIAL invitees. Gov. Chavit Singson and stunningly gorgeous Che Singson

RUBY Tuason and Cez Manalo

HOT namedroppables. Makati first lady Dr. Elenita Binay and daughter Anne

"MY Fair Lady" cast members take their well-deserved bows. Nori Ongsiako, Reli German, Joey Sobrepena, Leo Martinez, Sol Tan Gatue, Chinggoy Alonzo, Fanny Blanco and Malu Veloso

MYRNA Borromeo (second from left) as Eliza Dolittle, the cockney flower girl, with dancers Joey Sobrepena, Nini Layug, Baby Antonio and Tereret Tambunting Liboro

WOMEN of charity. Bang and Letty Jorman

ROI Phillips

JOJO Zabarte and hostess with the mostest, Nene Leonor

LET'S have a ball. Nini Layug, Michael Basilan and Joey Sobrepena

MYRNA Borromeo, now as Miss Dolittle, everyone's fair lady at the ball

THE HOTSHOTS of the afternoon. Alice Dee, CWC president Alice Briones, glamorous patroness of the arts Meldy Cojuangco, and Asia's royal couturier Pitoy Moreno

THE POWER BUNCH. Cecile Limjoco, Alice Briones and Danny Dolor; (seated) Ofie Recto, Justa Tantoco and Jose Briones

MARILOU Alejandro, Susana Brook, Fortune Ledesma and Pitang Tiongson

'Familya Fashionista' contest

THE SO family won the grand prize with their resort attire at Shopwise's "Familya Fashionista" competition last year.

SHOPWISE launches the search for this year's "Familya Fashionista." To join, make a purchase worth P500 of any men's, ladies' or children's fashion items in any Shopwise branch until Sept. 19. Applications must include one 5"x7" color full body shot, one 8"x10" color head shot, plus an essay on why the family considers itself the best candidate for "Familya Fashionista." Essays may be written in either English or Tagalog. Deadline for entries is on Sept. 19.

GOINGS ON

CANDY-MAKING COURSE. Businessmaker Academy will hold Celebration Candles and Goodies tomorrow. This course will show you the different ingredients, tools and equipment needed for candy-making, as well as recipes, techniques and practical tips to make candles for fun and for profit.

THERAPY. Life Transformation Institute will hold the Touch Therapy for Emotional Wellness on Sept. 11, 18 and 25 at Life Counseling Center, Unit 304, 3/F 57 Examiner corner Times Streets, West Triangle, QC. Psychotherapist Randy Misael Dellosa can help you experience deeper physical relaxation and greater emotional health. Call 4156529/ 4157964/ 0918-3862056.

GRAND PRIX. RMSC Slalom grand prix will hold its 7th leg on Sept. 12 at SM City Fairview. The motoring event rules are now available. Call 9286951/ 9206356.

TRAINING. ProActive Center for Training will hold Basic Food Servers Training on Sept. 15-21, 1-5 p.m., at Ipanema Bar and Restaurant, 2/L Eastwood Citywalk, Libis, QC. Call 6871787.

ARTS FEST. MCO Arts Festival 2004 Season II features "Tango!," a musical concert featuring the works of Astor Piazolla. Performing artists are Della Besa and Anamaria de Guzman (duo pianists), Butch Roxas and Ruben Reyes (guitarists) and Gina Medina (violinist). The event will be held on Sept. 18, 6 p.m., at Francisco Santiago Hall, mezzanine, Equitable-PCIBank, Tower I, Makati Avenue corner HV dela Costa Street, Makati. Call 8784358 to 59.

SEMINARS. ALP Business Training Center offers a seminar on Balloon Business, Native Kakanin and Gift Wrapping, Packaging and Ribbon-Making on Sept. 18. On Sept. 19, Basic Candle-Making, Laundry and Other Detergent Soap-Making and Basic Meat Processing will be offered. Call 9007876.

WORKSHOP. Clairvision Philippines will hold "Awakening the Third Eye" workshop on Sept. 18-19, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The techniques covered are method for developing the third eye, aura reading, meditation based on activating the body of energy, awareness and vision, how to quickly recover during the day and using nights for spiritual development. Call 4127629.

SALE. Sta. Lucia East Department Store and Home Gallery holds its annual Home Fair until Sept. 30. Enjoy discounts on home furniture and kitchen appliances. Present your P500 single purchase receipt from the houseware section to get a raffle coupon. Drop your entries at designated drop boxes to qualify for the draw.

PHOTO COURSE. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a photo course for beginners starting on Oct. 3. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

TRADE FAIR. Market! Market! by the (Sampaloc) Lake will be formally opened by Mayor Vicente Amante on Oct. 27 at Doña Leonila Park, San Pablo City. The agro-industrial fair will be held until Oct. 31.

CONFERENCE. The Education Tech Conference, Trade and Exhibits will be held on Oct. 6-8 at the Philippine Trade Training Center. Call 6511749.

HOMECOMING. The Maryknoll College (now Miriam College) Class 1979 will be this year's silver jubilarians. They will present dances and songs during the Silver Jubilee Homecoming tomorrow at the Marian Auditorium. Songs from "Paglipas ng Dilim," a grand *zarzuela* staged in the Little Theatre of the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1979, will be sung by batchmates Celia Llave, Carme Sanchez and Grace Villareal-Agoncillo.

A dance evolution featuring Tahitian, the bump, Lambada and Macarena will be performed by some alumni.

A video documentary featuring alumni members of Class '79 is being produced by Mayee Tordesillas-Fabregas, Susan Perfecto-Canlas, Carme Sanchez and Grace Ancheta-Chua. Nominees for Amazing Alumni Achiever's Award for this year from College batch '79 are Joy Ogan and Sister Consolata Manding.

Batch members are requested to join the fun and contact Deng Tengco, batch representative, at 7129570, 0917-8115846 or dengtengco@yahoo.com; Celia Llave at 9524224, 0918-2363870 or cpllave@yahoo.com; or May Cabarles-Te at 7434518.

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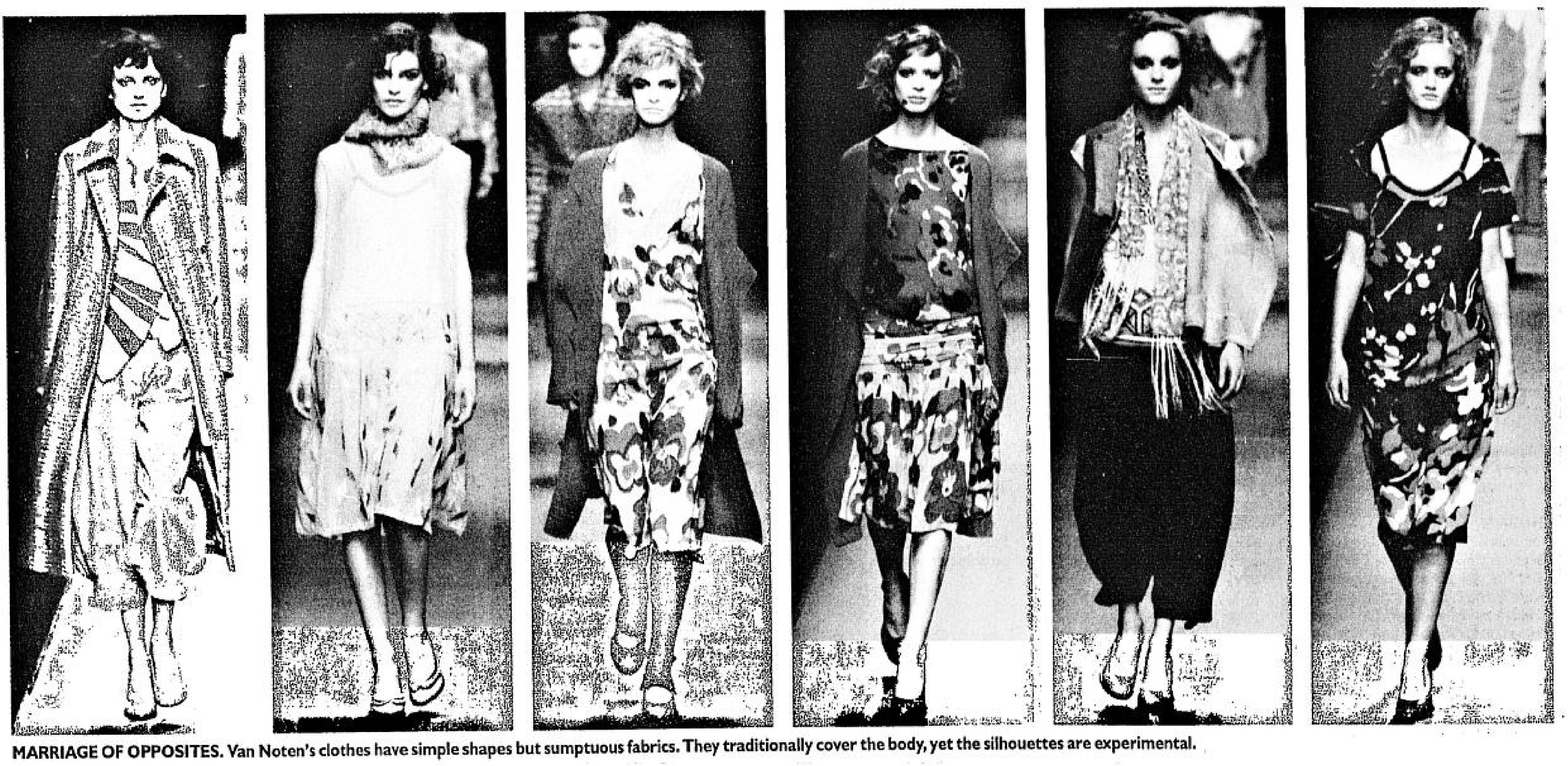


MARRIAGE OF OPPOSITES. Van Noten's clothes have simple shapes but sumptuous fabrics. They traditionally cover the body, yet the silhouettes are experimental.

Distinctly Dries

From page C1

and women who recognize and appreciate enduring quality without being guided by slavish in-and-out lists. Wearing Dries Van Noten will more likely set you apart with fashionable distinction than mere label recognition.

The line was hi-low dressing before Lucky magazine and Hollywood discovered it. Every season is a marriage of opposites and this fall is no different: glass beads entwined in metal yarns, silk and satin under soft leather, stripes blocked with florals.

More contrasts are evident in shapes that are simple but with fabrics that are sumptuous. The clothes traditionally cover the body, yet the silhouettes are experimental.

Limited Asian doors

Dries Van Noten has an extensive retail distribution in over 400 doors around the world, yet outside of Japan in Asia, there are only two boutiques: one at Angel Mitsukoshi in Taipei and a newly expanded and renovated 3,000-sq-ft one at Landmark in Hong Kong.

So important is the Hong Kong market to Van Noten that he flew in to inaugurate the shop together with Joyce Ma and her daughter Adrienne, and Ian Hawskworth, executive director of Hong Kong Land. The newly refurbished Dries Van Noten is part of an ongoing real estate facelift in Central which will include a new Mandarin Oriental and Harvey Nichols.

"Since the beginning, back in 1991, we have always shared a mutually appreciative relationship with Dries and his team, both on a professional and personal level," says Adrienne Ma, managing director of Joyce Boutique.

"We are most excited about the new boutique as it marks the achievement to a new height for the brand's development in Hong Kong. It has been seven years since we opened the first Dries Van Noten boutique, and the successful collaboration has culminated in a doubling of the shop space and the new store is an expansion of the original premises."

Like the Antwerp flagship, Hong Kong's new boutique not only carries men's and women's collections, but the designer's personal selection of fashion accessories and toiletries as well, such as the traditional Geo F. Trumper and Dr. Harris from London, cult fragrance line Frederic Malle (known for its Musc Ravageur and citrus cologne and concentrate Bigarade), hats by Rod Keenan of New York, men's jewelry from Murray Ward and Tobias Tailors of Savile Row, and eyewear from Persol and Frederick's Optik.

E-mail the author at kittygo_pdi@yahoo.com

ANTWERP, Belgium-based Dries Van Noten has consistently epitomized the "jetsetting hippie" look.

Spotted, striped, bejeweled and charmed

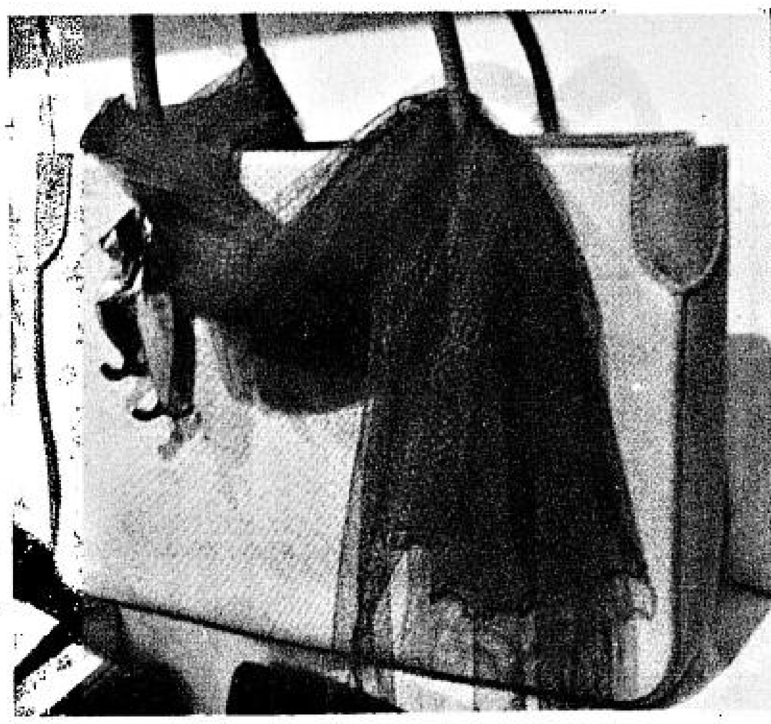
From page C8

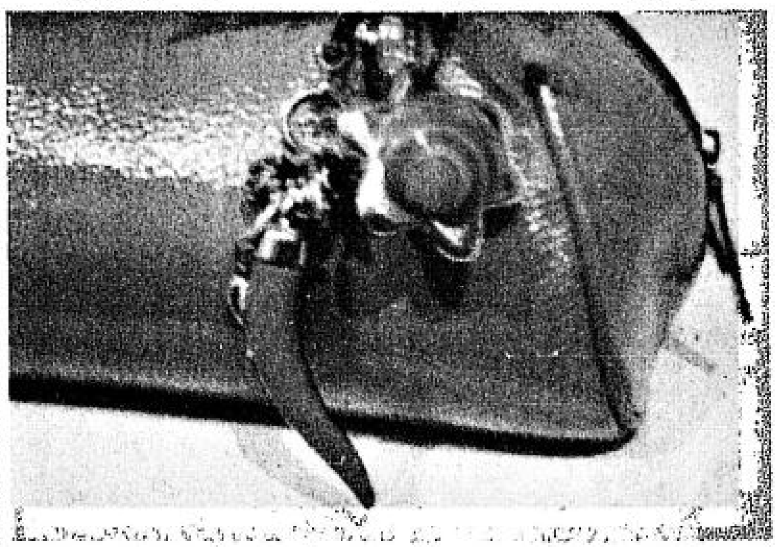
Another way to personalize your look is with the use of various key chains and fobs, which you can hang on your bag straps. The more, the merrier. Go for different colors and designs and combine them all to create a funky look that shows your personality. If you want to keep things subtle but up to the minute, a chain or two should do the trick.

Bejeweled shoes

Fancy feet never looked so good so shod yourself in pretty, feminine, richly embellished footwear. Choose flirty sandals and shoes decorated with stones, feathers, chains, ribbons, flowers and the like. They're the perfect accessories for a simple dress or suit. And you need not reserve twinkling toes for evening affairs. Go ahead and wear them during the day and whenever you want to look glam.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com.





ADD a bit of charm to your ordinary totes by hanging a bunch of fun, funky chains reflecting your personal style. Aqua bag with chili pepper and acrylic-and-silver key chains from Marion Godart; Canvas-and-leather tote, shawl, and mother-of-pearl and silver fish key chains also from Marion Godart

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THE METROBANK ART AND DESIGN EXCELLENCE: PROMOTING FILIPINO ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Since 1984, the Metrobank Foundation has helped nurture and nourish the country's creative soul through the Young Painters' Annual national painting competition that has launched the careers of some of the country's notable visual artists. Through the nationwide competition, outstanding painters were provided with a venue to hone their craft and establish a promising career as professional artists.

Under the program, the Foundation also promotes the flourishing of arts through dynamic partnerships with arts institutions to provide skills training and enhance art education and appreciation among the general public. The YPA also provides its winners with financial assistance to mount their first solo exhibits, which give promising painters the much needed boost in their careers. Over the years, past winners of YPA continues to make exemplary contributions to the country's artistic legacy, thus, on its 25th anniversary, the Foundation honored ten of the more established artists with the Award for Continuing Excellence and Service or ACES.

After 20 fruitful years of recognizing young talented painters, the Foundation takes a giant leap into the promotion of artistic excellence among Filipino artists with the inception of the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence National Competition or MADE. In addition to painting, MADE expands the Foundation's involvement in the arts by honing the talent and creativity in the fields of sculpture, architecture and interior design. With few avenues for recognition of these art forms, the Foundation takes on the challenge of paving the way for young and talented Filipino sculptors, architects and interior designers to be duly acknowledged.

This year, eight outstanding artists were chosen as the first winners of MADE including a special award for sculpture dubbed as the Metrobank Foundation Prize for Achievement in Sculpture for a young and talented sculptor who continues to make significant contributions to the development of Philippine Sculpture.

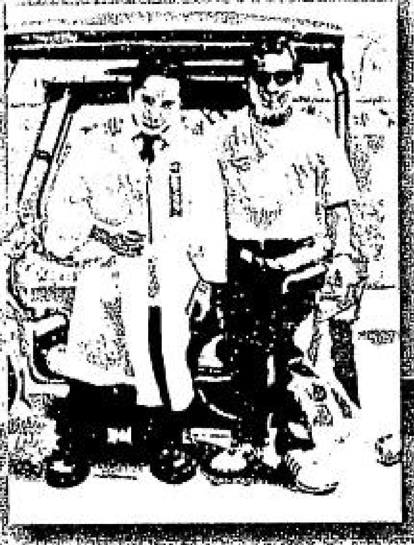
The winners will receive a specially designed trophy crafted by former YPA winner Noell El Farol. Dubbed as "Mula," the trophy is an embodiment of the symbolic character of a rice grain signifying the harvest of crops after toiling, resulting into a demonstrable and tangible result of efforts learned by an individual, thus, receiving a symbolic award earned as a result of his creation. For the special award in sculpture, the winner will receive a medallion designed by former YPA winner Roberto Feleo that exemplifies the character of spiral and light incorporating the sun's movement where light emanates and light symbolizing truth and wisdom.

New partnerships were also established from the birth of this new program. For the architecture and interior design competitions, which will start in 2005, the Foundation partnered with the United Architects of the Philippines and the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers to lend technical expertise in these fields.

Early this year, Noell El Farol conducted a series of lectures and workshops on art documentation for young artists to promote the new program. Past winners were also invited by the Austrian Embassy for an exhibit of their recent works for charity purposes. The Foundation likewise participated in other art-related activities of various organizations during the year.

PAINTING CATEGORY

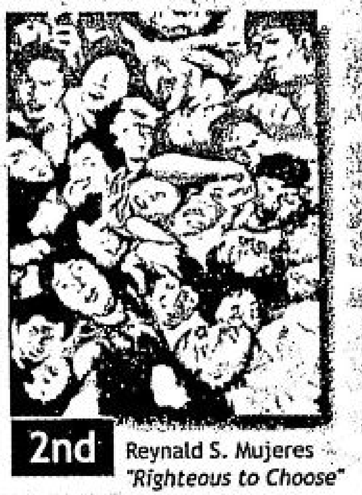
Oil-based medium on canvas



1st
Jaypee S. Samson
"Iskolar"
91.44cm x 106.68cm

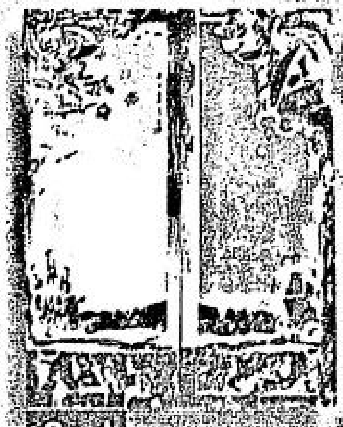
Water media on paper

1st
Michael D.G. Gonzales
"Idle Spaces"
76.2cm x 96.52cm

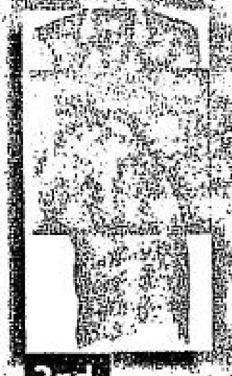


2nd
Reynald S. Mujeres
"Righteous to Choose"
91.44cm x 106.68cm

3rd
John Paul S. Castillo
"Mistaken Priorities (Bisyo)"
91.44cm x 106.68cm

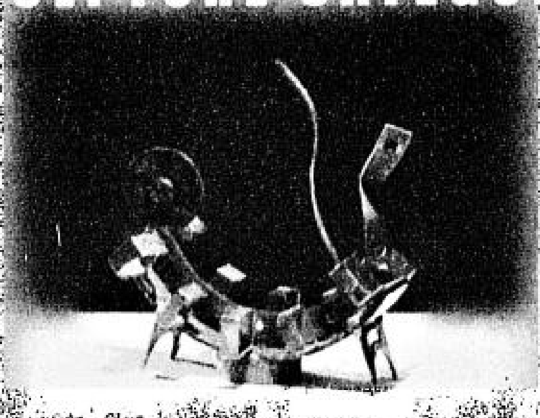


2nd
Noli P. Manalang
"Innocent Reverie"
85.09cm x 110.49cm



3rd
Fitzsimon L. Herrera
"Mechanical Drained Pupet 2"
60.96cm x 111.76cm

SCULPTURE CATEGORY



Grand Prize
Florence M. Cinco
"Human"
29.21cm x 15.24cm x 30.48cm

Metrobank Foundation Congratulates the Winners of

Metrobank Foundation Prize for Achievement in Sculpture

Dan Raralio
Sculptor/Painter
Product Designer

The First METROBANK ART & DESIGN EXCELLENCE National Competition Winners

Formerly known as the Young Painters' Annual, which started in 1984 and ran for twenty years, the competition has taken a big leap to open new avenues of expression. Now known as the METROBANK ART & DESIGN EXCELLENCE or MADE, the competition has opened its doors to Sculpture, Architecture and Interior Design. This year, as we mount the 21st annual awarding ceremony and exhibit opening, we are pleased to present to the public this year's finest crop of young painters and sculptors who emerged winners in the MADE National Competition. As we salute each of our winners, we pay tribute to their talent and bid them well on their journey towards greater artistic excellence.

Exhibit will run from September 13 to 24, Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bank Lobby of Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

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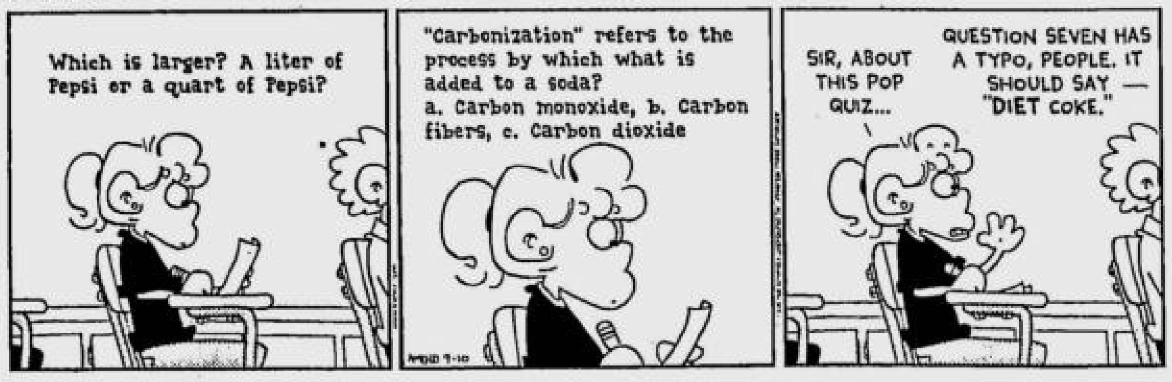
ComicRelief

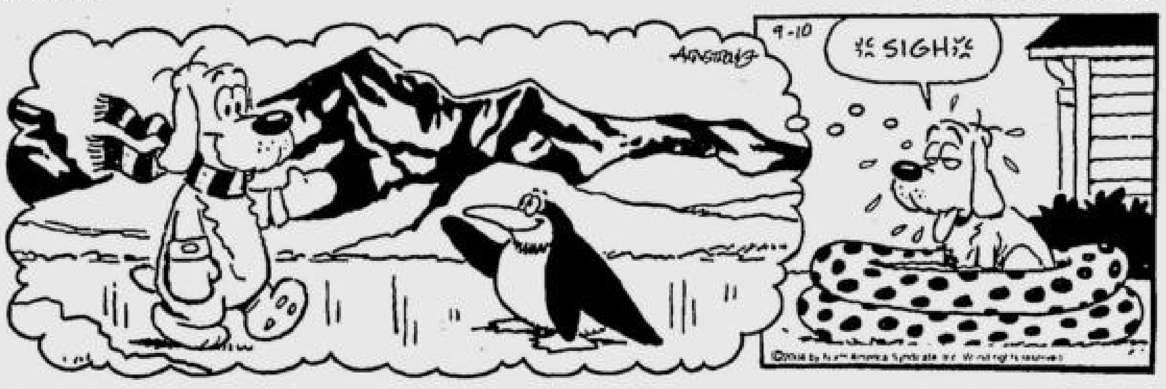
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2004

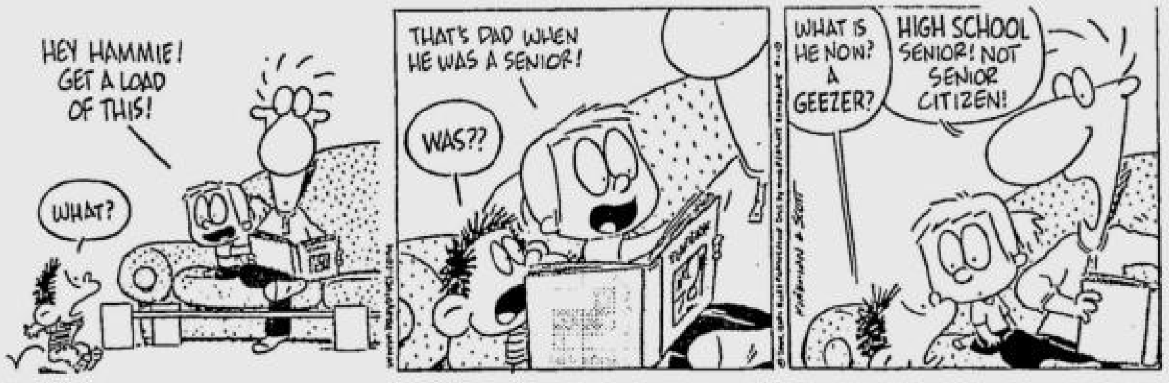
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


Which is larger? A liter of Pepsi or a quart of Pepsi?
"Carbonization" refers to the process by which what is added to a soda? a. Carbon monoxide, b. Carbon fibers, c. Carbon dioxide
SIR, ABOUT THIS POP QUIZ...
QUESTION SEVEN HAS A TYPO, PEOPLE. IT SHOULD SAY — "DIET COKE."
AMEND 9-10

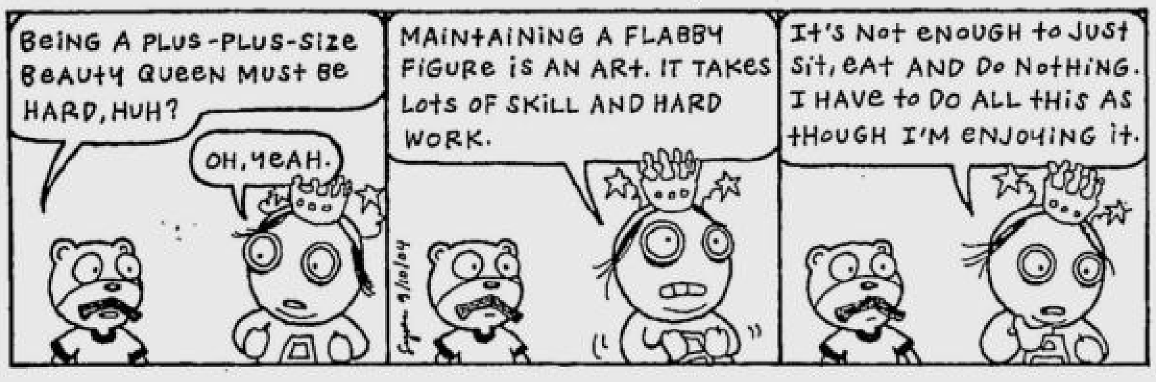
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


9-10
SIGH
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HEY HAMMIE! GET A LOAD OF THIS!
WHAT?
THAT'S DAD WHEN HE WAS A SENIOR!
WAS??
WHAT IS HE NOW? A GEEZER?
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR! NOT SENIOR CITIZEN!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


BEING A PLUS-PLUS-SIZE BEAUTY QUEEN MUST BE HARD, HUH?
OH, YEAH.
MAINTAINING A FLABBY FIGURE IS AN ART. IT TAKES LOTS OF SKILL AND HARD WORK.
IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST SIT, EAT AND DO NOTHING. I HAVE TO DO ALL THIS AS THOUGH I'M ENJOYING IT.
9/10/04

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're reliable, conscientious and extremely capable. You value tradition, justice and loyalty. You have a conservative exterior and a passionate, secret inner life. You exude confidence and sanity no matter how you feel personally. (You have a great cover!) In the year ahead, expect increased solitude so that you will learn something important.

Birthdate of: Colin Firth, actor; Arnold Palmer, golfer; Jennifer Tilly, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Two concerns will occupy your mind: health and work. You want to improve your health a; and you want to find the best techniques available for your job.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In the month ahead, you'll use your mind for playful activities like games, puzzles, crosswords, trivia, Jeopardy! and the like. You'll also enjoy reading for pleasure.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have an opportunity to find out more about your past or your childhood.Even casual contemplation will cause you to drift back to what has gone before.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The tempo of events in your life is suddenly accelerating! That means this is definitely not the time to stay at home. The month ahead will be active, dynamic, interesting and stimulating.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're full of moneymaking ideas. You need to follow through on these, because you're spending it as fast as you're earning it! (It's just one of those things.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Four planets are in your sign now: the Sun, Mercury, Mars and Jupiter. This is not a common event. You are empowered and blessed right now. Use this to your advantage!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You definitely need rest, peace and quiet. Even if you keep working, work behind the scenes as much as possible. Cut down on your social activities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Group activities are fun and enthusiastic right now. You enjoy the company of others. Be patient with one person who seems to tick you off.

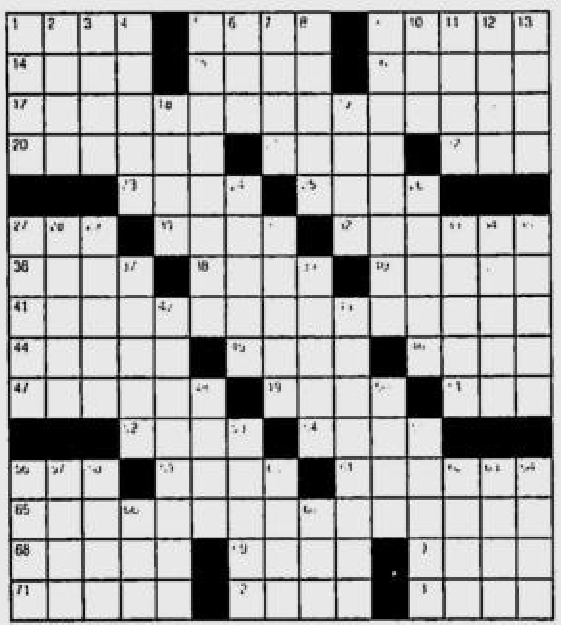
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good time to discuss plans about your professional life. Think about whether things are working out or not the way you want them to.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): In the month ahead, you'll love any kind of study or advanced education or training. Four planets are urging you to expand your world in some way (travel or reading).

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're ready to delve into very deep thinking. You're reflecting on life and wondering how your values compare with the values of others. You want to know what really matters.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good time to discuss difficulties in partnerships. In the next few weeks, you'll have opportunities to present your case and settle arguments.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

9/10/04

ACROSS
1 "Bonanza" brother
5 May or Ann
9 Fable's lesson
14 Portend
15 Warning sign
16 Lyric poem
17 On and off
20 Refused
21 Ancient portico
22 NY clock setting
23 Deuces
25 Sniggler's pursuit
27 __ Simbel
30 Clip
32 Drop garbage
36 Thelonious Sphere __
38 Writer Wiesel
40 Rouen's river
41 On and off
44 Best of the best
45 Dreamcast maker
46 Mother of France
47 Pine tar derivative
49 Castle material?
51 Colorant
52 Laurel or Musial
54 Some TVs
56 Rowing-crew tool
59 Suit toppers
61 Plod
65 On and off
68 Permitted by law
69 Singing voice
70 Red Sox or White Sox
71 Siouan tribe
72 Bank offering
73 First family of Ferrara

DOWN
1 Not up yet
2 Peace symbol
3 Arabian gulf
4 Be worthy of
5 Overlooks
6 I love: Lat.
7 Sunday seats
8 Related on mother's side
9 Olympic star
10 Choose (to)
11 Architect Mies van der __
12 Fruit drinks
13 Time of fasting
18 Poisonous evergreens
19 Coward of theater
24 "__ Marner"
26 Water vapor
27 Waves of grain color
28 Founder of modern chemistry
29 Inappropriate
31 Conifers
33 Pooped
34 Way in
35 View again
37 Windblown toys
39 J. __ Hoover
42 Flexible feeler
43 Authoritative permission
48 To __ his own
50 Small arrow
53 Himalayan country
55 Connecting rooms
56 Christiania, now
57 Fills with wonder
58 Capital of Latvia
60 Go it alone
62 Bunny mommies
63 Insect pest
64 Salinger lass
66 Chasing game
67 RR stop

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	Y	S	■	K	A	L	F	■	G	R	A	T	E
A	L	O	T	■	I	D	E	S	■	R	U	S	E	S
I	F	Y	O	U	D	O	N	T	■	O	N	T	A	P
T	R	O	U	T	■	■	S	A	L	U	T	A	R	Y
T	E	S	T	A	I	L	■	T	I	P	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	H	A	V	E	E	N	E	M	I	E	S
S	A	L	T	■	P	E	P	■	T	R	U	D	G	E
T	R	I	E	S	■	S	O	L	■	S	I	E	G	E
A	G	E	N	T	S	■	C	P	A	■	R	A	S	P
Y	O	U	D	O	N	T	H	A	V	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	M	A	G	■	S	E	L	F	I	S	H
T	E	E	N	A	G	E	R	■	■	L	A	N	K	A
A	N	T	I	C	■	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R
P	O	A	C	H	■	A	E	R	O	■	E	R	I	E
E	S	T	E	S	■	P	A	T	E	■	T	O	N	S

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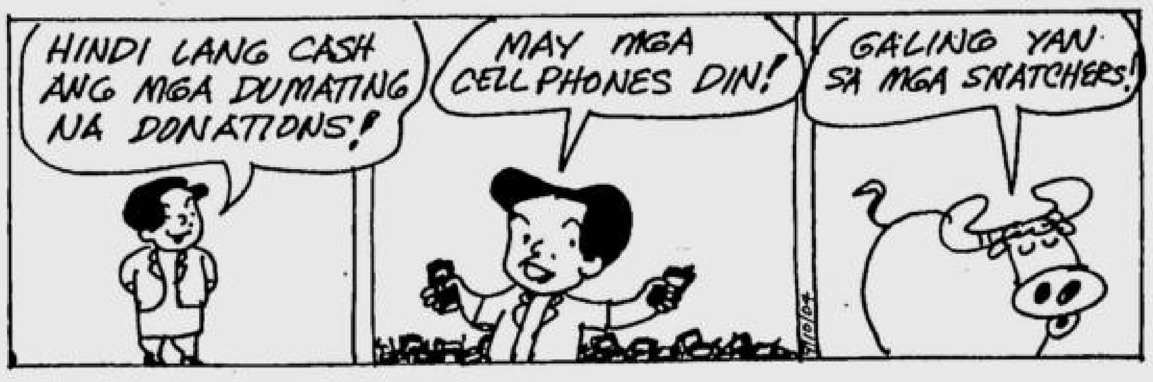
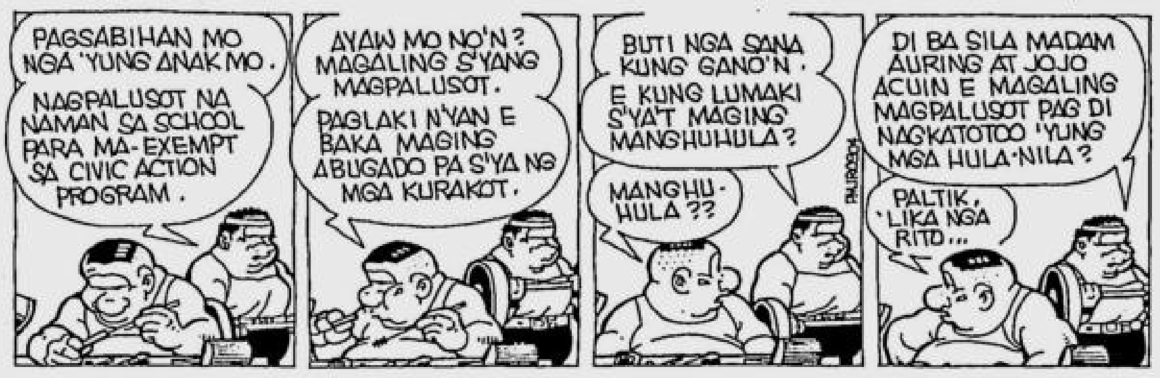
9/10/04

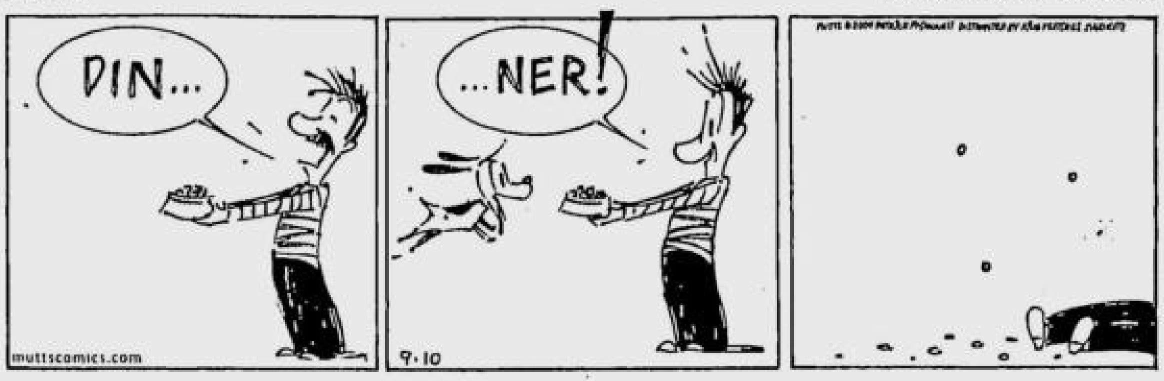
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI LANG CASH ANG MGA DUMATING NA DONATIONS!
MAY MGA CELL PHONES DIN!
GALING YAN SA MGA SNATCHERS!
9/10/04

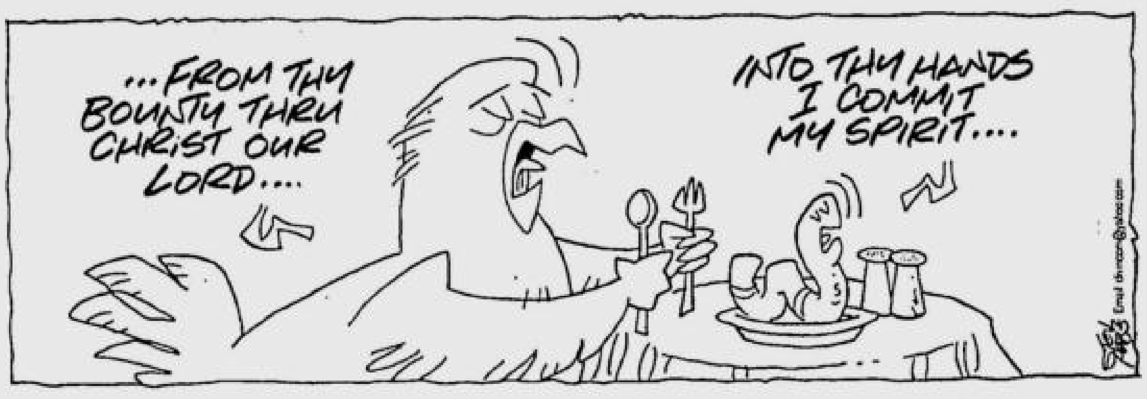
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAGSABIHAN MO NGA 'YUNG ANAK MO.
NAGPALUSOT NA NAMAN SA SCHOOL PARA MA-EXEMPT SA CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM.
AYAW MO NO'N? MAGALING S'YANG MAGPALUSOT.
PAGLAKI N'YAN E BAKA MAGING ABUGADO PA S'YA NG MGA KURAKOT.
BUTI NGA SANA KUNG GANO'N. E KUNG LUMAKI S'YA'T MAGING MANGHUHULA?
MANGHU-HULA??
DI BA SILA MADAM AURING AT JOJO ACUIN E MAGALING MAGPALUSOT PAG DI NAGKATOTOO 'YUNG MGA HULA NILA?
PALTIK, 'LIKA NGA RITO...
PMJR

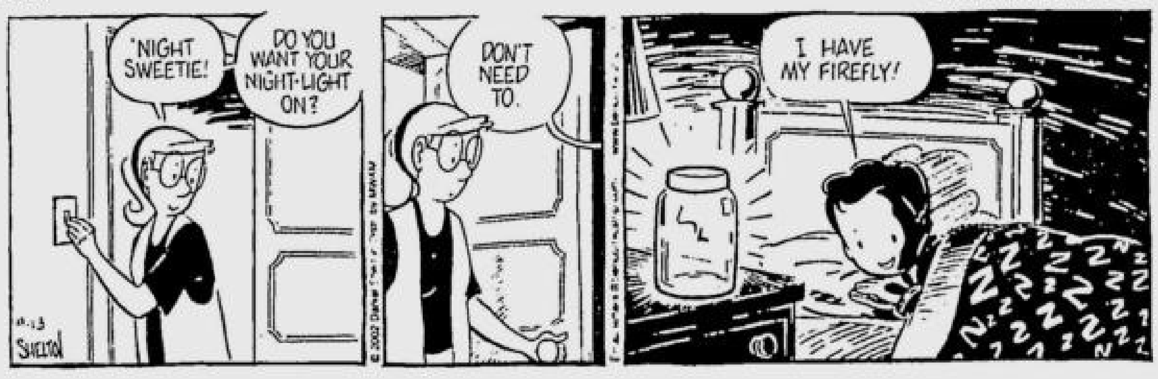
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DIN...
...NER!
muttscomics.com
9-10

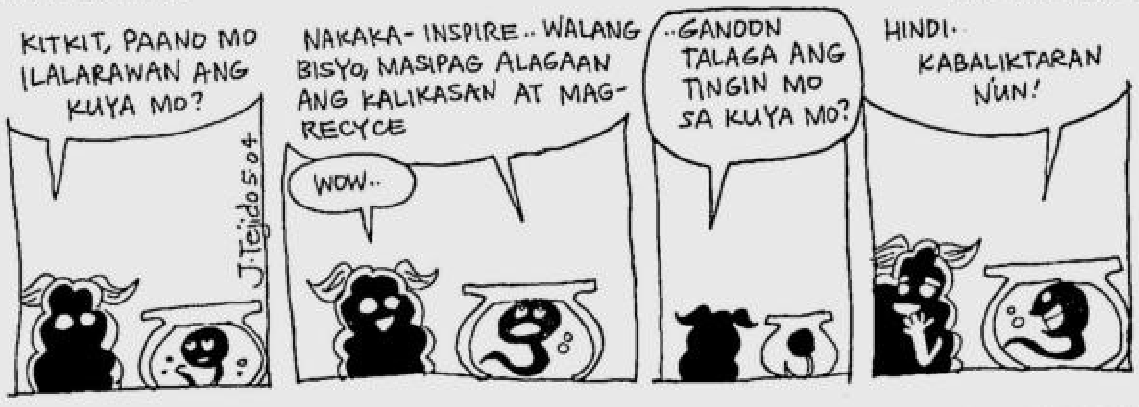
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


...FROM THY BOUNTY THRU CHRIST OUR LORD....
INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT....

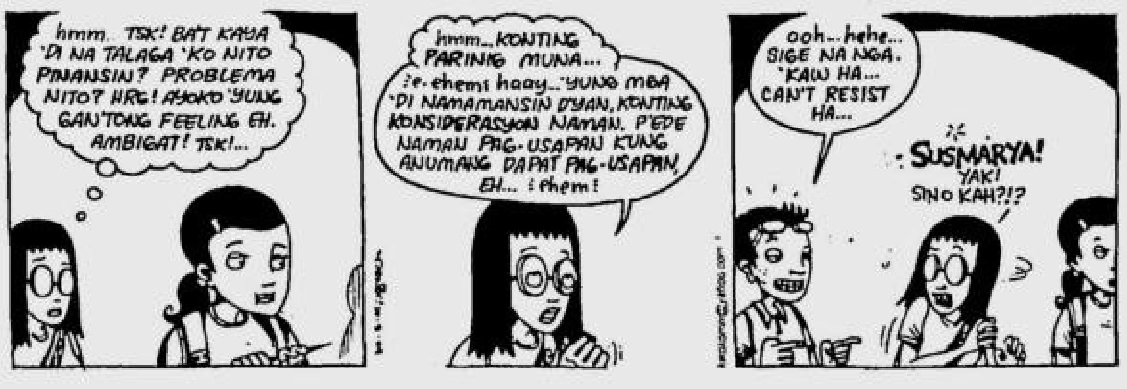
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


'NIGHT SWEETIE!
DO YOU WANT YOUR NIGHT-LIGHT ON?
DON'T NEED TO.
I HAVE MY FIREFLY!
SHELTON

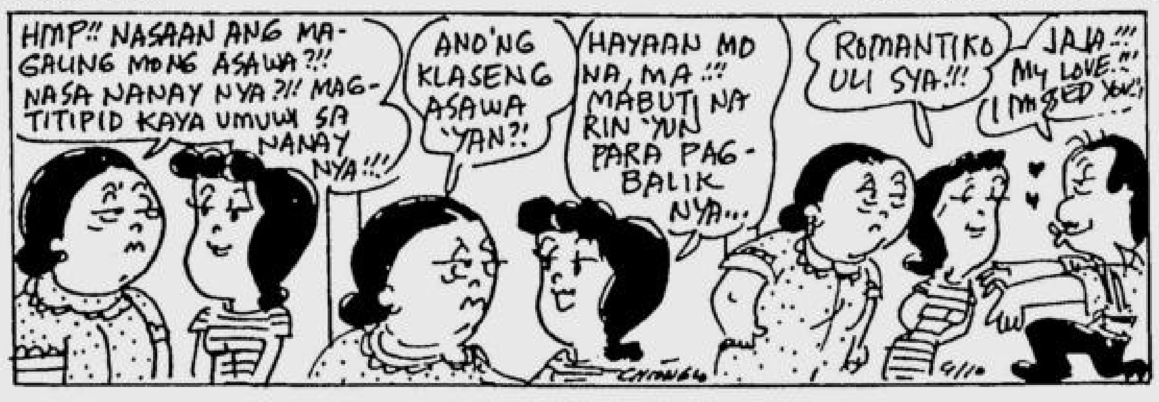
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KITKIT, PAANO MO ILALARAWAN ANG KUYA MO?
NAKAKA-INSPIRE.. WALANG BISYO, MASIPAG ALAGAAN ANG KALIKASAN AT MAG-RECYCE
WOW..
..GANOON TALAGA ANG TINGIN MO SA KUYA MO?
HINDI. KABALIKTARAN N'UN!
J. Tejido 5.04

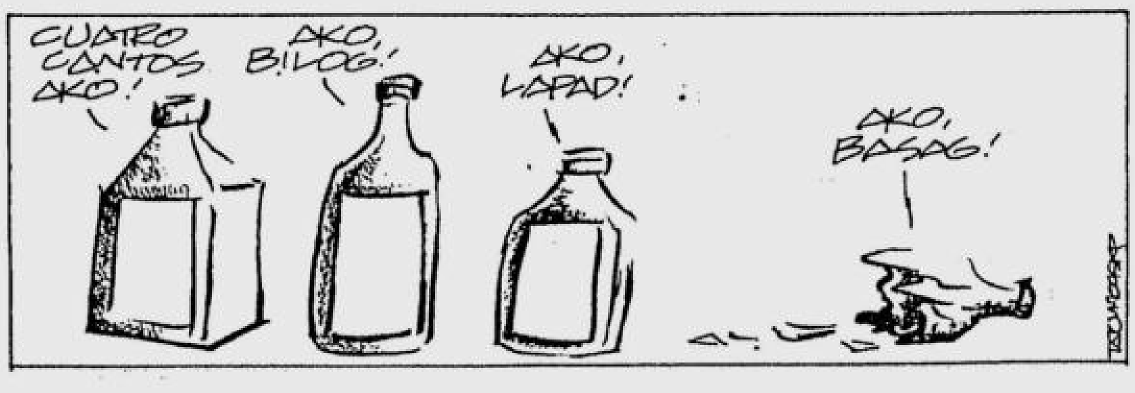
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

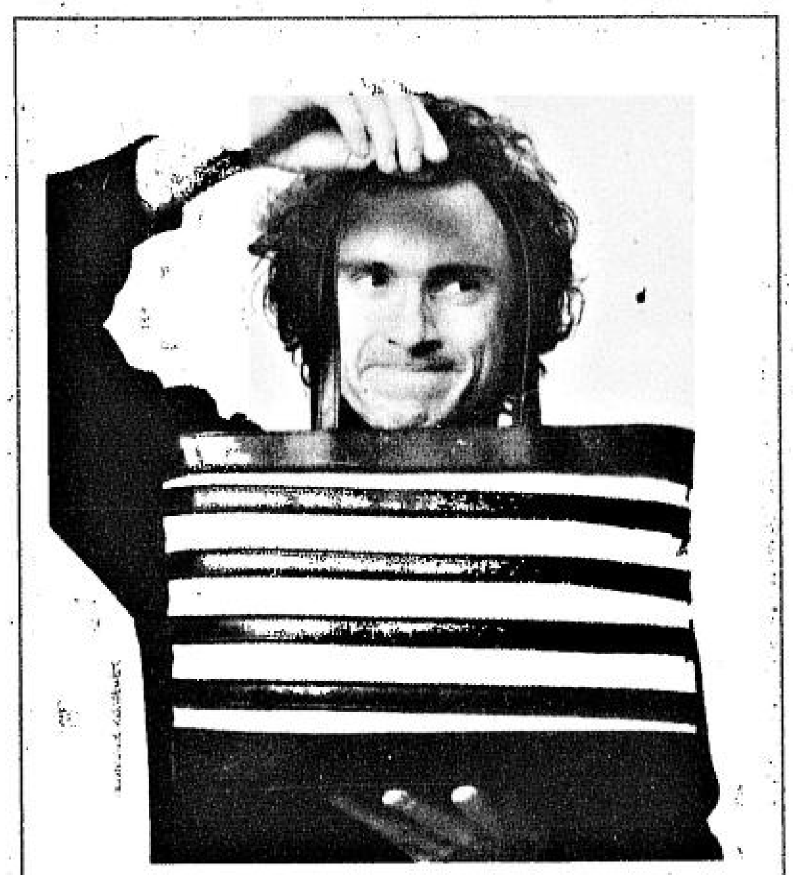

hmm.. TSK! BAT KAYA 'DI NA TALAGA 'KO NITO PINANSIN? PROBLEMA NITO? HRG! AYOKO 'YUNG GAN'TONG FEELING EH. AMBIGAT! TSK!...
hmm... KONTING PARINIG MUNA... !e.ehem! haay...'YUNG MGA 'DI NAMAMANSIN D'YAN, KONTING KONSIDERASYON NAMAN. P'EDE NAMAN PAG-USAPAN KUNG ANUMANG DAPAT PAG-USAPAN, EH... !ehem!
ooh... hehe... SIGE NA NGA. 'KAW HA... CAN'T RESIST HA...
SUSMARYA! YAK! SINO KAH?!?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HMP!! NASAAN ANG MAGALING MONG ASAWA?!! NASA NANAY NYA?!! MAG-TITIPID KAYA UMUWI SA NANAY NYA!!!
ANO'NG KLASENG ASAWA 'YAN?!
HAYAAN MO NA, MA!!! MABUTI NA RIN 'YUN PARA PAG-BALIK NYA...
ROMANTIKO ULI SYA!!!
JAJA!!! MY LOVE!!! I MISSED YOU!
CHIONGLO
9/10

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


CUATRO CANTOS AKO!
AKO, BILOG!
AKO, LAPAD!
AKO, BASAG!



THOMAS Heatherwick with his design for Longchamp, the Thomas Heatherwick expandable zip bag

Zipped-up perfection

RUSTAN'S Department Store introduces "The Thomas Heatherwick Zip Bag," the new handbag collection from French luxury leather goods company Longchamp and acclaimed European multi-disciplinary artist Thomas Heatherwick.

"The Thomas Heatherwick Zip Bag Collection" by Longchamp, which expands to double its size, derives its functional innovation from the zipper mechanism. Designer Heatherwick, also a topflight sculptor and architect, is known for his eclectic style of finding ways to use materials.

Here, he creatively stretches the use of the zipper by integrating the mechanism into the over-all design of an ordinary-looking leather bag. The Zip Bag, cut from the finest leather, has one long zipper winding its way from top to bottom. From its original unzipped form, it transforms into a larger and much more colorful bag, revealing contrasting colors crafted from a waterproof, coated nylon. The same coated nylon lines the bag, while a leather base reinforces and stabilizes its shape.

The bags are available in two variations: "The Shopping Bag" and "The Drawstring Bag," both in black leather. The "Shopping Bag" reveals a white nylon expanding into a contrasting black and white striped bag. Designed with two large inside pockets to hold essentials, its magnetized flap secures the bag.

Cylindrical in shape, "The Drawstring Bag" reveals a vibrant fuschia nylon when expanded. Its chic modernist design contrasts with an old-fashioned button enclosure.

"The Thomas Heatherwick Zip Bag Collection" by Longchamp is exclusively available at the Ladies' Floor of Rustan's Makati.

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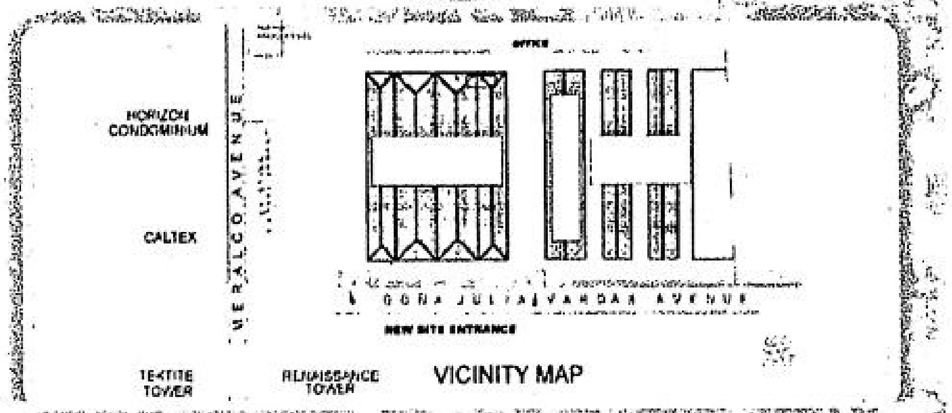

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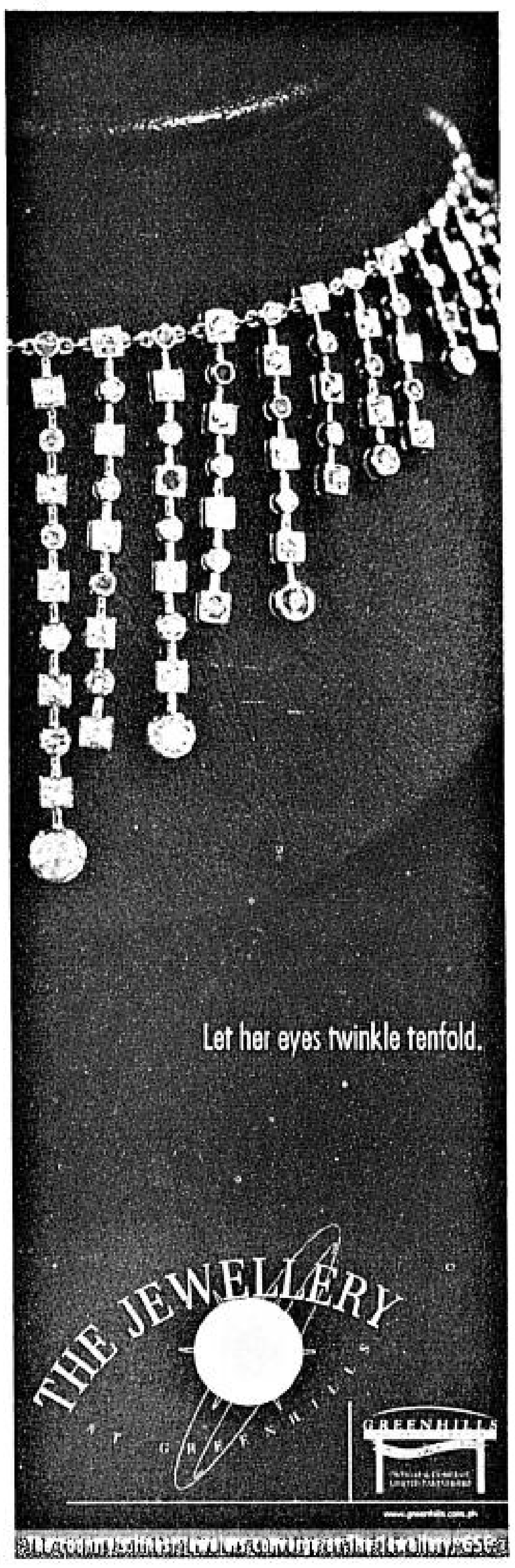

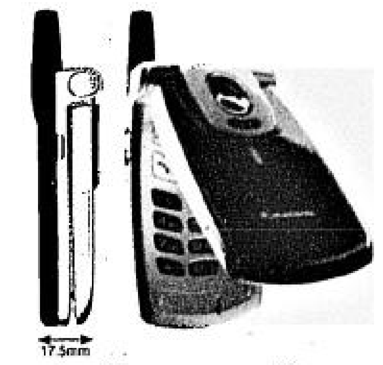

desirable
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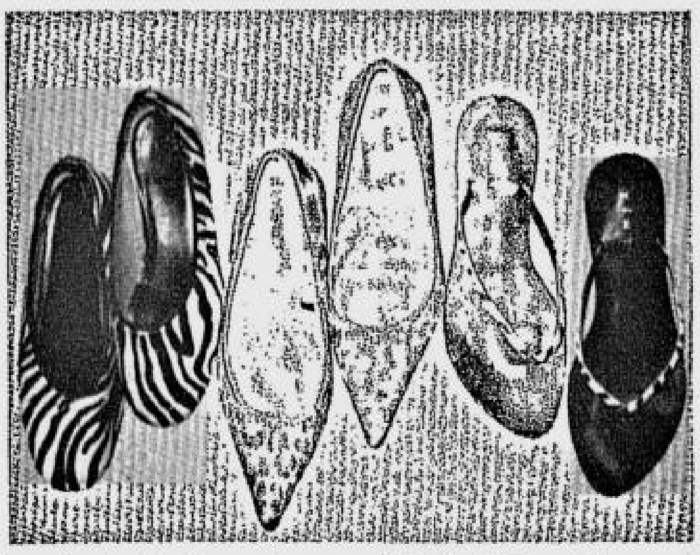
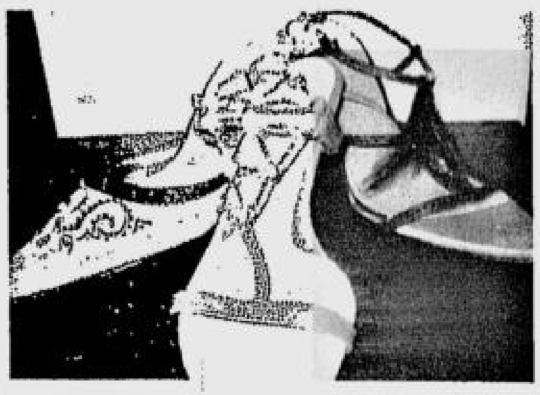
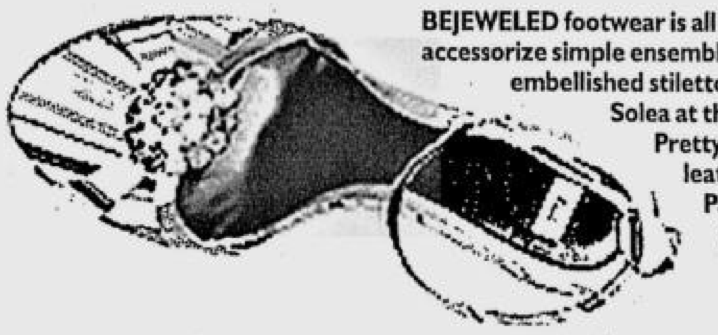


RICH skins and animal prints are the season's hot look. Go wild by donning animal-print coatdresses, caftans or accessories. Leopard-print caftan from Culte Femme; and animal-print shoes from Anne Klein, Mango and Tint





BEJEWELED footwear is all you need to accessorize simple ensembles. Assorted embellished stilettos to order from Solea at the Power Plant Mall; Pretty, feminine silk and leather shoes from the Paul Smith Blue Collection

Spotted, striped, bejeweled and charmed

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

STILL can't figure out how to update your fashion look for the months ahead? Here are a few more suggestions on how you can use accessories to add some oomph to an otherwise basic and sometimes boring wardrobe.

Go wild

The fall fashion runways abroad were chock-full of animal prints, from leopard spots to zebra stripes, to name a few. They were all over every imaginable article of clothing such as trench coats, suits, tops and the like. What's more, some of the hottest and most interesting handbags and footwear were also made of mixed textures of rich skins and animal prints.

You, too, can go wild by investing in one or two animal-print accessories this season. Get shod in zebra-striped ballerina flats or leopard-print heels. Or tote an exotic animal-print bag that will surely liven up any ordinary getup.

If you are daring enough, forego the accessories and go for an attention-getter coatdress or caftan in an exotic leopard print, for example. Don't be afraid to experiment and try new things. But, as always, opt for whatever you are most comfortable and confident with.

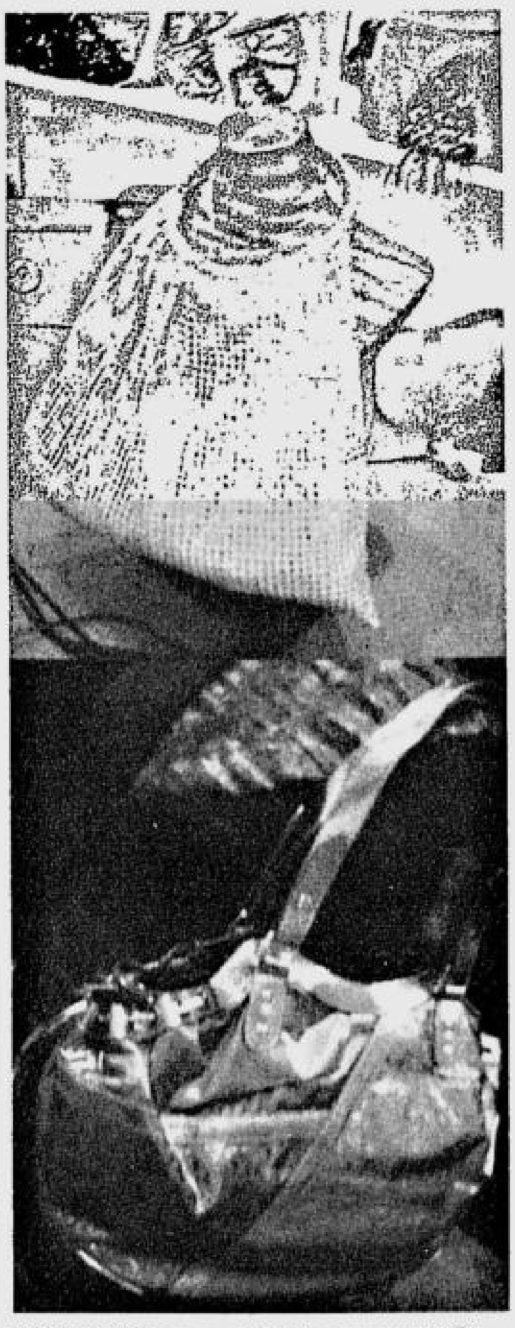
Metallic bags

Another great way to update your look is through the use of metallic handbags. Go for gold or silver totes that you can wear with most anything in your wardrobe. Or if you are more adventurous, try colorful metallic bags. The brighter the better so choose vivid hues such as purple or fuchsia.

Charmed and chained

Remember those charm bracelets that you used to pile on in the '80s? It's time to make use of them once again but not as bracelets, mind you. This time around, use them as kitschy little accessories that you can sew on to your jeans (in the front pocket, to be exact). It's a sure fire way to add style and panache to your staples.

SPOTTED/ C5



METALLIC bags can brighten up any outfit. Gold sequined bag and purple metallic bag from Marion Godart at the Power Plant Mall

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LIFESTYLE

The fashionista, the fashion victim and the style icon

Here's how to tell one from the other

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IT'S almost a standard after-dinner talk/argument/homily between me and my fashion designer friend. I'll drop a young woman's name and say she's stylish, and he'll say: "A joke." Then I give another name, and he says, "Fashion victim."

This goes on and on—this either-joke-or-fashion-victim tag—until finally, frustrated at never hitting the mark, I'll ask, so who's the style icon really, or at least a woman with style?

Then the homily starts: "No one below 40. No one so young, because it takes a measure of independence and all of life (for one to be a style icon). First, you must know yourself, what you want and you don't want. You must have tried out things and brands, traveled, be exposed to all sorts of people to be able to discern, then choose. Style is self-confidence—to be sure of yourself."

He fires away: "They (the girls I happen to mention that night) are just trendy, too trendy to have their own style. Young girls don't have yet that confidence, that subtlety."

Short of the above prerequisites, my friend believes, a woman is just a fashionista, but not—not yet at least—a woman of style, much less a style icon. If I haven't been hearing my friend saying this in the past two decades or so, I'd say he's just biased against today's fashionistas, some of whom he doesn't know.

But his style perspective hasn't changed through time, and the more I read up about design and stylish women of the past century, the more I look around, and, okay, the older I get, the less I disagree with him on this.

Style is discernment

While my standards are not as stringent as my friend's, I agree that style, like taste, is discernment, and with discernment comes a choice. A choice can arise only from an array of choices. And with choices comes editing. It is in the editing of choices that, shall we say, the women are set apart from the girls.

Why bother to define style—which, to a certain extent, is indefinable, to begin with? Because style is a multibillion-dollar world industry, because a certain degree of contemporary media—from glossies to this page—revolves around it, because it partly shapes culture.

Because men and women, willfully or not, want it, even obsess about it, or have been conditioned to want it. And—because many men and women don't have it.

Now that's the interesting part. I agree with my friend: To be trendy is not necessarily to be stylish. The types haven't changed through the years.

- There are the walking "glossies"—page 20 of Vogue for the top, page 50 of Bazaar for the skirt and page 100 of In Style for the shoes, and for the ears, neck and wrists, Lucky. These ladies know trends but not necessarily themselves. They're a sum of trends, without a solid sense of identity.
- More-is-better type. They're everywhere everyday. They're the picture of visual traffic—ruffles on the bodice, fringe on the hem, faux fur in between, and all the bangles and

THE FASHIONISTA/ D3

STYLE MAVENS. Celine Lopez and Leica Carpo

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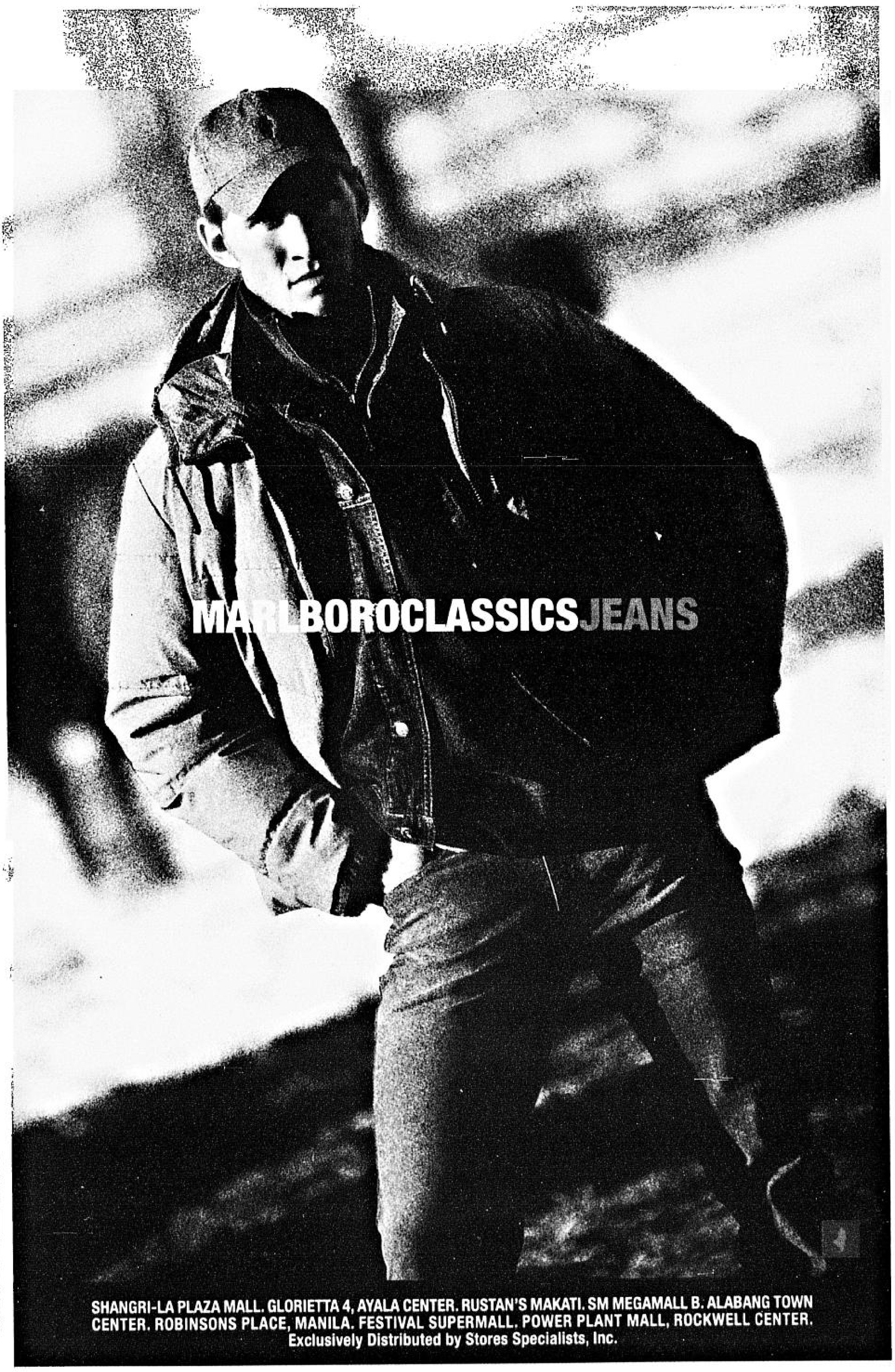

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DODGIE Batu

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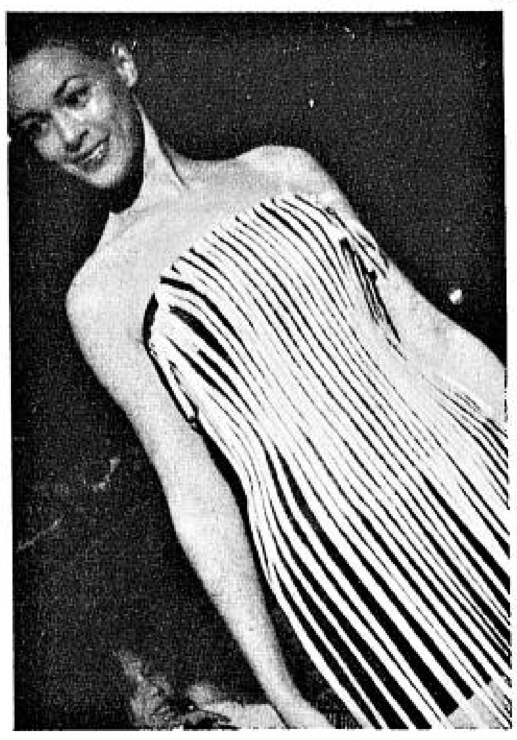


AZTEC Barba

AZTEC Barba

Davao's design threesome

Dodgie Batu and the brothers Barba signal the fashion frontier—and market—that is Mindanao

By Alex Y. Vergara

METRO Manila-based fashion designers may be crowding out one another in an increasingly tight market, but their colleagues in Davao City and the rest of Mindanao have the regional market all to themselves.

Aware of this fact, designers Dodgie Batu and brothers Popoy and Aztec Barba are staying put in Mindanao—for now. As owners and in-house designers of Patahian, they have their hands full attending not only to Davao-based fashionistas, but also to clients in General Santos City.

DODGIE Batu goes soft, fluid and romantic.

"Aztec and I started the venture eight years ago," says Batu. "Popoy was about to quit fashion design in favor of interior design, until he decided to join us soon after."

Batu is in charge of finances, Popoy attends to production and Aztec takes care of marketing.

The trio, together with Margie Moran-Floirendo and Baby Montemayor of Tribes of the East (*see related story below*), recently staged an afternoon fashion show at the lobby of the Marco Polo.

It marked the second time that Davao's premier hotel sponsored such an event. As part of its commitment to promote fashion, it plans to stage a wedding fair next year.

As each designer presented clothes that looked totally different from one another, it was quite hard to imagine how three creative people could run and provide a consistent direction to two shops at the same time.

If they do have creative differences, it seems the trio is very good at ironing them out before attending to a client.

"I give way," says Aztec, the younger of the two brothers and current president of the Fashion Designers Guild of Davao, "or if I don't, someone else will."

"For the show, we came up with what we really like," he adds. "When it comes to running our two shops, however, we agree [on] and work around a certain direction every season."

While Batu showed soft, fluid and romantic silk chiffon dresses and separates with considerable draping, layering and ruching (certain pieces were embellished with twisted tassels and frayed details), Popoy went for a "sculptured," late 1960s-inspired collection of duchess satin midriffs, skirts and dresses with uneven hemlines, exaggerated collars and curvilinear patterns.

If not for the strips upon strips of satin tapes that added to their visual appeal, Aztec's silk gazar pieces, some of which harked back to the 1950s, were composed of basic corsets, halters, pants and skirts aimed for young women.

Such details, he says, made his clothes more complicated and time-consuming to do.

Wearable

But despite such obvious differences, the designers agreed among themselves to make their clothes as wearable as possible. They likewise stuck to neutral shades such as white, black, beige and brown.

Since they began working on their respective pieces separately and in different locations, they had no idea what each of them would be presenting until a few days before the show. The same autonomy is evident in real life.

"It doesn't matter who the designer at the shop is during a particular time," says Popoy. "Customers, whether in Davao or in Gen. San, are assured that they will be attended to and given the same importance."

They invariably gained wider exposure since they started joining shows in Manila two years ago.

While people up north had generally been receptive to the trio's national debut, fellow Davaoeños were said to have been "shocked" after learning of their breakthrough.

"We'd like to believe that we're more competitive now that we have linkages to Manila," says Batu. "Members of FDCP (Fashion Design Council of the Philippines) invite us whenever they have shows, and we hope to gain more from these exposures."

They count Frederick Peralta, who took the time off to watch their show, as one of their Manila-based friends and mentors. Peralta, whom the three affectionately call "Mamu," was also responsible for inviting journalists from Manila to cover the event.

Of course, they've had their share of offers from well-meaning financiers for them to open a shop in Manila. But that would mean running three shops at the same time, or a ratio of one designer per shop.

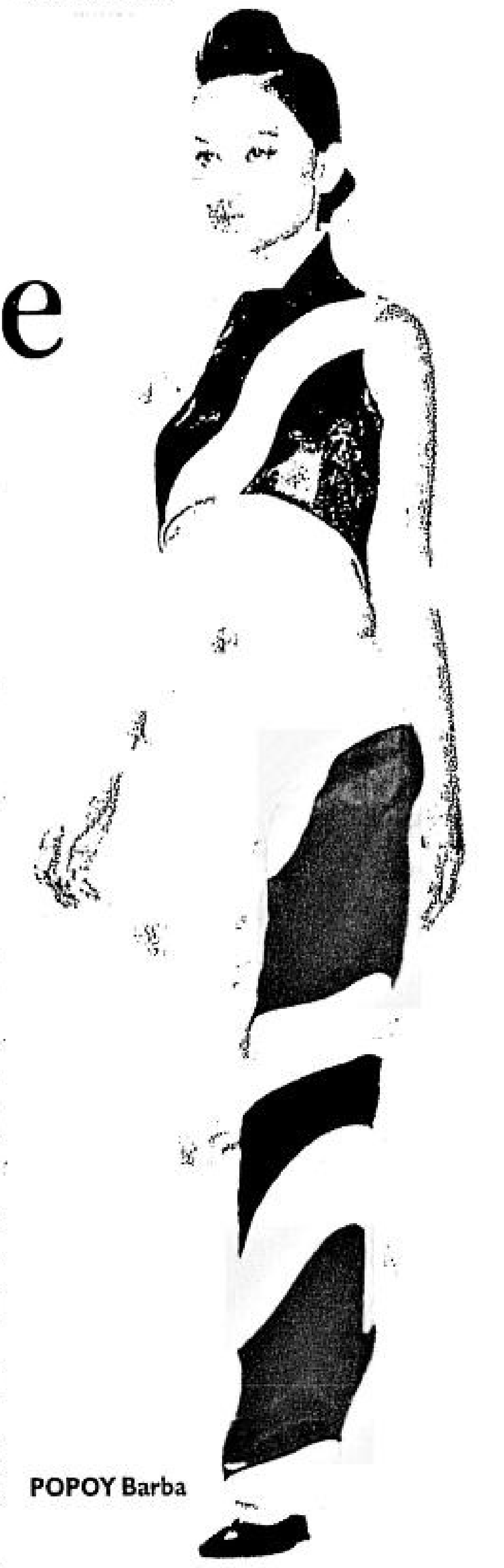
"As of now, we have more than enough work as we attend to two shops," says Batu. "But we're not closing our doors to such a possibility."

If and when that happens, the three will continue to maintain their presence in Mindanao as they branch out to other areas of the country. It seems the growing "family business" has nowhere to go but national.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

AZTEC Barba opts for strips of satin tapes for visual appeal.

POPOY Barba shows structured, late 1960s-inspired pieces.



POPOY Barba

These weavings will conquer the universe

IT'S a wrap!

FORMER Miss Universe Margie Moran-Floirendo is again promoting her favorite cause. This time, she has teamed up with Baby Montemayor, another adopted daughter of the South, to market traditional woven materials and other home and fashion accessories produced by women of Mindanao.

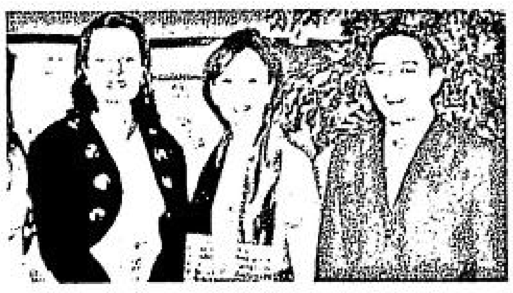
Shawls, bags, table runners and throw pillows labeled "Tribes of the East" are now sold in upscale department stores both here—Rustan's, Power Plant Mall's Anna Pashmina and Shangri-La Mall's East Style carry the items—and abroad. To create awareness for the island and its people, every item is proudly "Made in Mindanao."

A number of shawls and scarves made of viscose rayon and silk and which can double as sashes, are embellished with beaded tassels consisting of crystals and pearls and come in colors and patterns that are anything but traditional. Embellishing is done in Davao, under the pair's supervision.

"Almost every item is dictated by demands from the West—from the patterns to the colors," says Moran-Floirendo, "so weavers from such places as Cotabato, Cagayan de Oro and Davao have had to relearn and adjust to new ways of creating things."

They had to introduce such changes gradually, so as not to offend the women's sensibilities. After all, weaving remains a traditional but dying art form in Mindanao. The older weavers were particularly quite resistant.

The traditional *malong*, for instance, is noted for its vibrant colors. But foreigners, say, in New York, wanted cooler shades for summer. Some of the weavers understandably didn't want to veer from tradition.



MARGIE Moran-Floirendo and Baby Montemayor with Art Boncato Jr., Marco Polo Hotel's director for sales and marketing

"We had to explain to them that the market, not us, dictated such trends," adds Moran-Floirendo. "Many of them gradually learned to adapt to current demands. We've also been able to train younger women through donations."

Aside from providing these women with a steady source of income, their training ensures the art form's survival. The New Zealand government has given them a grant for the preservation of the weaving tradition.

Moran-Floirendo and Montemayor hit upon the idea during the height of the tourism slump in Mindanao almost three years ago. As the Abu Sayyaf's criminal activities hogged the headlines, tourists avoided the island like the plague.

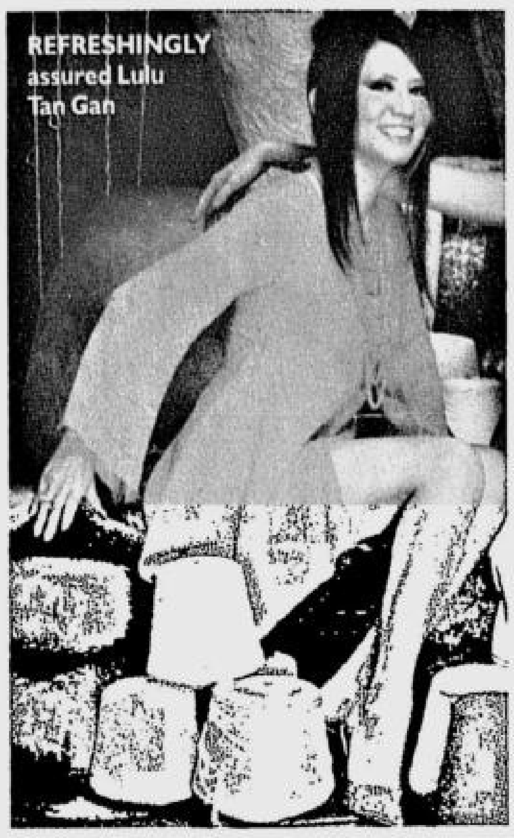
"Since people refused to come to Mindanao," says Montemayor, "Margie and I decided to bring the island's products to them."

Alex Y. Vergara

SCARF spices up little black dress.

SHAWL to keep you warm

The fashionista, the fashion victim . . .


REFRESHINGLY assured Lulu Tan Gan

From page D1

trinkets loud enough to make Coco Chanel regret the day she discovered everyday pearls.

A style icon of the century, Elsie de Wolfe, put it so well as she stressed the simplicity of dress: "I always take one thing off before leaving the house." In contrast, many of us can't seem to step out of the house without putting another thing on.

Diana Vreeland said it like no other could: "Elegance is refusal."

In truth, style evolves and one works at it. It is when this evolution doesn't show that one can truly say that one's style works. The effort must not be palpable—not "trying hard," in short.

Nonchalance's the word.

Elegance in simplicity

However, I don't agree with my friend that one must be nearing middle age to have the power of style.

Certainly mature women have an edge; former Citem head **Eli Pinto** always tops my list. Not only does she dress exceptionally well, on whatever occasion, but she also knows design, local and global, being a Parsons graduate herself.

Elegance in simplicity—that's her style whether she's in a black evening dress with just an indigenous tribal neckpiece as accent, or in a linen day dress.

Lulu Tan Gan steps into a resto on a stormy night, in her knit top—and citrus-colored micromini—and such self-confidence instantly brings warmth into the room.

There are many young ladies on my list. **Leica Carpo** has this distinctive ability to use accessories that can add whimsy to a classic look. **Celine Lopez** has such a sense of fashion adventure that she makes dressing up or down seem not only classy but also simply fun. **Romina Urra** is sheer nonchalance when she dresses, yet uniquely chic.

What do these women have in common? Young as they are, they know what they want and what they don't want.

Tessa Prieto Valdes, on the other hand, is in a league all her own. While others use style to achieve character, Tessa uses character to define—sometimes tempt—style.

On another note, have you seen the September Vogue? It's two-inch thick and 836 pages. But more on that next week.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

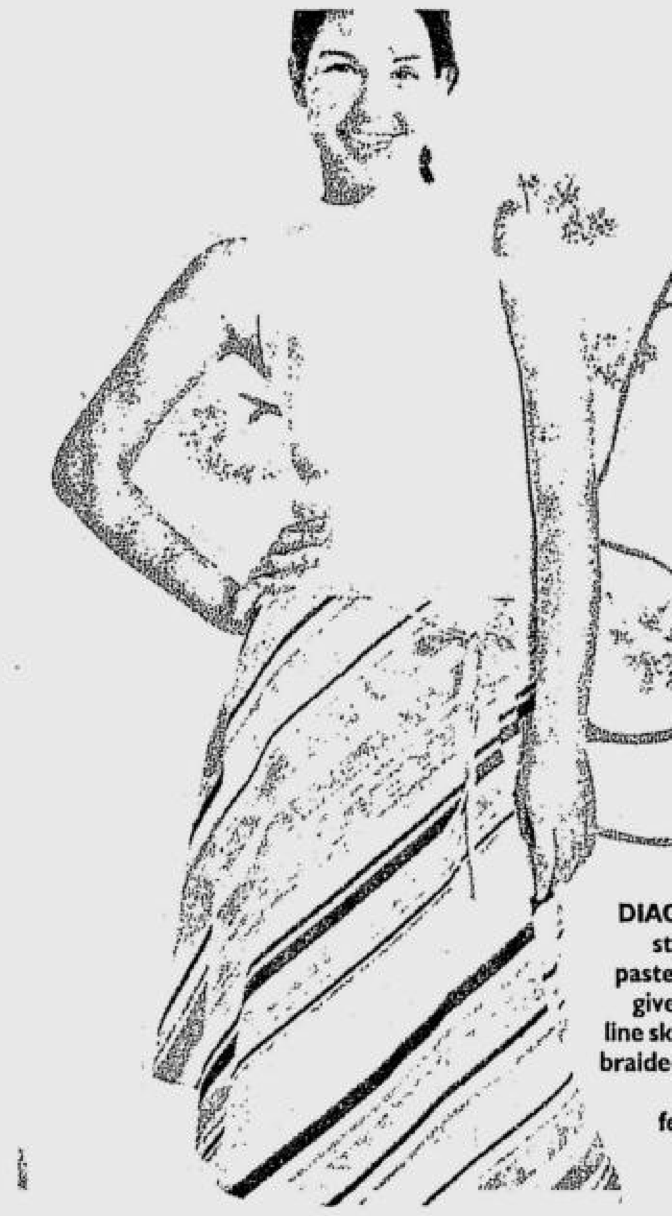
CHIC Romina Urra

GREEN flowing chiffon skirt with abstract prints worn with a white top

Flirty, frolicsome skirts

SKIRTS are abloom at SM. Full, flirty and feminine, they are bursting with dainty wallpaper prints, bold and beautiful bouquets and pretty petals. Others play with geometrics: abstract floral prints, swirls and stripes and classic checks.

Accented by organza, satin and braided bow belts, these garments achieve a fresh new look worn with basic tee tops. The collection is available at the Boutique Square Department of all SM stores.


DIAGONAL stripes in pastel colors give this A-line skirt with braided string belt a feminine twist.

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LIFESTYLE

Elizabeth Arden
PROVOCATIVE WOMAN
The new fragrance

ACTRESS Catherine Zeta-Jones endorses Provocative Woman by Elizabeth Arden.

'Perfumed' divas

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

I STILL can't get over sultry Salma Hayek's endorsement of Avon's Today fragrance. It seems singing and acting divas are bumping off fashion/supermodels and taking over the fragrance field. It has been going on for quite some time now, but people only stood up and took notice when Jennifer Lopez came out with **Glow by J.Lo**, and the latest, **Still**. The latter did not take off like the first, probably because soon after its launch, Bennifer (the much publicized romance between Ben Affleck and Lopez, which inspired the faux engagement ring on Still's bottle) ceased to exist.

The scents, of course, come with a whole range of body care products for layering purposes.

Curvaceous Catherine Zeta-Jones was very much involved in the creation of the scent **Provocative Woman** for Elizabeth Arden, (30 ml, P2,050; 50 ml, P2,750; and 100 ml, P3,450). Its main objective: make men putty in your hands.

The bottle's shape was inspired by a

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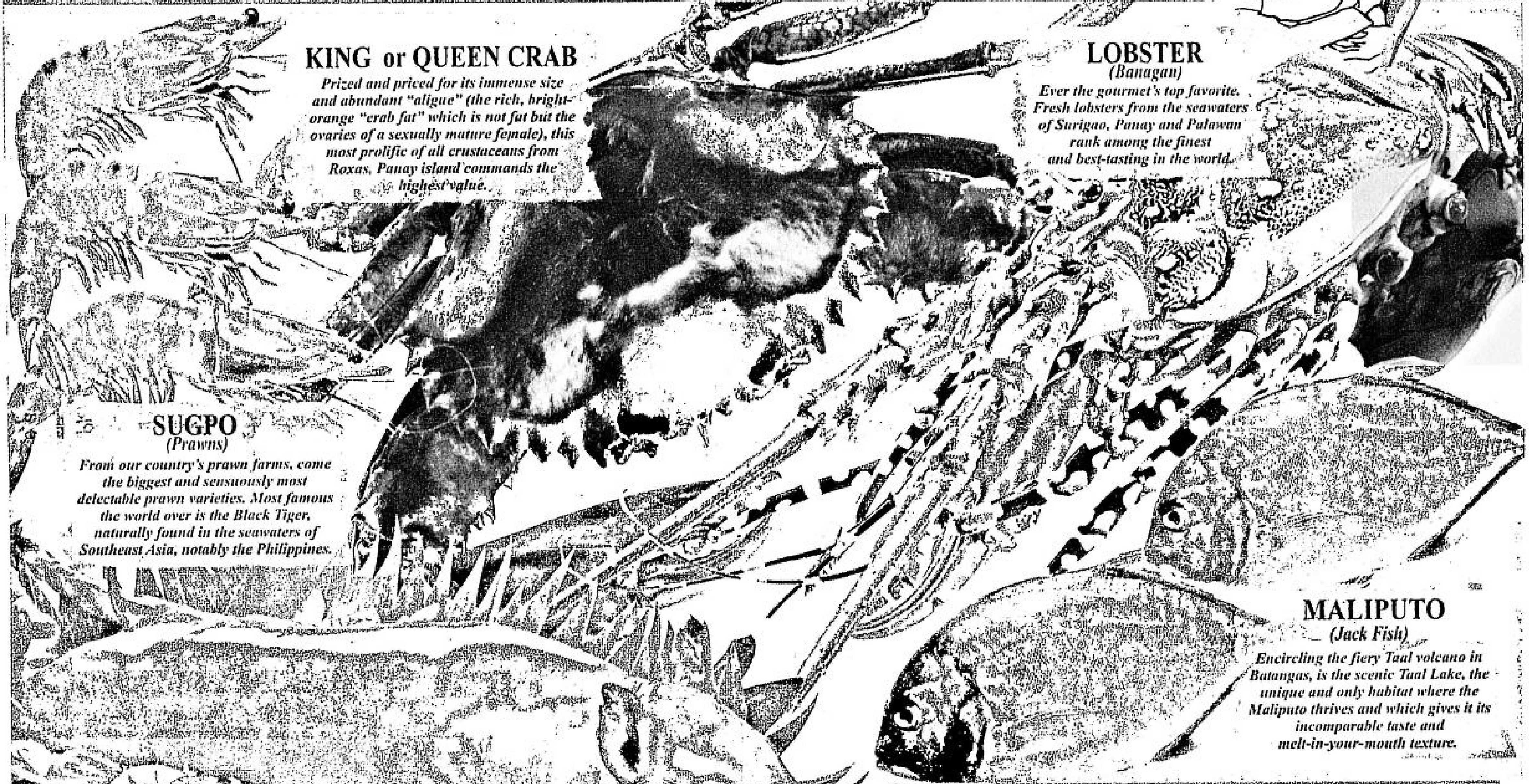

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(Jack Fish)
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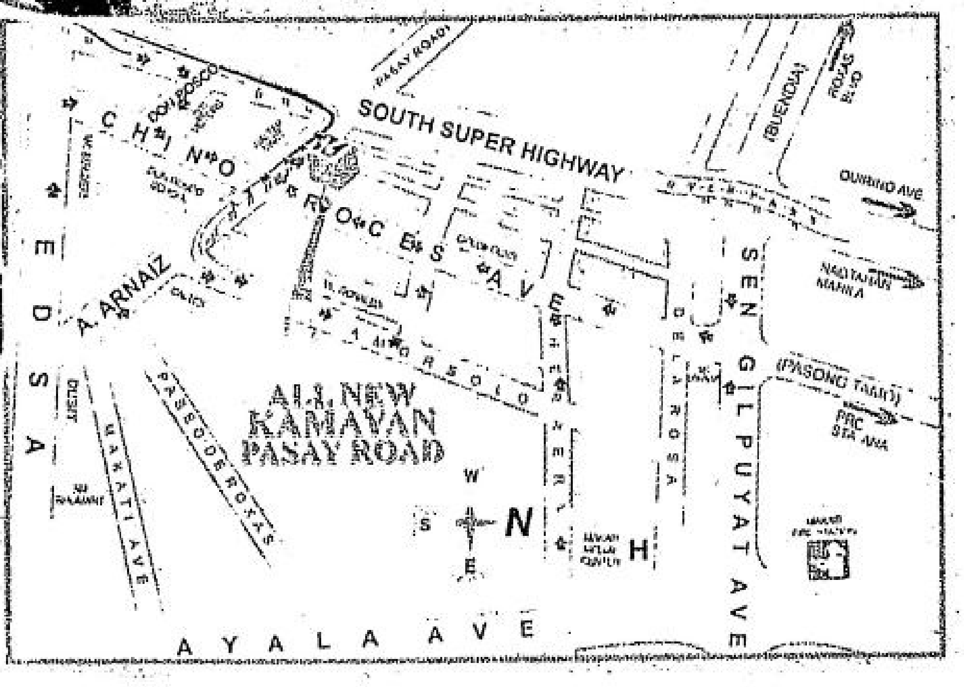

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EGG-CEPTIONAL. For the "perfect" oval face, L'Oreal suggests tecni.art Digit Gloss for a lightweight, glossy effect, and a-head Clay for a hip, urban style.

SMOOTH THE EDGES. A square-shaped face with this hairstyle requires tecni.art Liss Control to tame frizziness, and a spray of Air Fix to make the look longer-lasting.

BROADEN THE VIEW. This look widens a long, narrow face, and is achieved with the tecni.art Gloss Control and Fix Max for a shiny, non-sticky hold.

SLIM SHADE-Y. A slimmer round-shaped face is achieved with the aid of tecni.art Volume+ and a-head Zapp— soft, feathery wisps toward the center of the face.

Edward Scissorhands in the salon

The Vern hairstyling technique simultaneously uses up to three pairs of scissors with both hands for cutting, thinning and texturizing in one blow

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Rudy Esperas

MONICA Tan, director of Singapore's Kimage salon group and hair school, has made it her mission to push for the uplifting of the hair industry in the region.

AND we thought Edward Scissorhands was just another Tim Burton fantasy.

Last week, L'Oreal Phils.' professional products division presented the tecni.art Cut and Style Show at The Podium featuring three of Singapore's top hairstylists.

Monica Tan, director of the Kimage salon group and school, with her team, Veron Ng, creative director of Kimage Salon, and Justin Han, lead cutter of Chapter 2, a Kimage sister company, wowed top local stylists as they demonstrated the Vern technique of cutting hair—that is, simultaneously using up to three pairs of scissors with both hands.

Multifunctional tools

The Vern method was developed by a group of hairstylists in Taiwan in 1995, who also designed the Vern Intelligent Combined Scissors, a revolutionary multifunctional range of cutting tools that significantly reduces the amount of time professional stylists need to do their tasks.

It's cutting, thinning and texturizing in one go for a precise, professional haircut. The patented scissors are ergonomically designed, and can be assembled and combined depending on the requirement for each cut.

The Podium audience was thoroughly impressed with Ng and Han's skills as they deftly sliced and cut hair with several pairs of scissors on both hands. But, like in the movie, where the town gets terrified with Edward Scissorhands' odd, vicious-looking hands, some of the local stylists present had misgivings. One questioned the necessity of using many scissors at the same time.

Tan reasoned that the hair industry is very competitive, and professionals must adapt to new technologies to get ahead of the game. She has made it her thrust to push for uplifting the standards of the industry in her city-state and neighboring countries. The demo wasn't all gimmick, she said, and each of the scissors had a specialized function.

Cutting-edge cuts

The Vern technique and scissors have already earned accolades in Europe since they were first introduced.

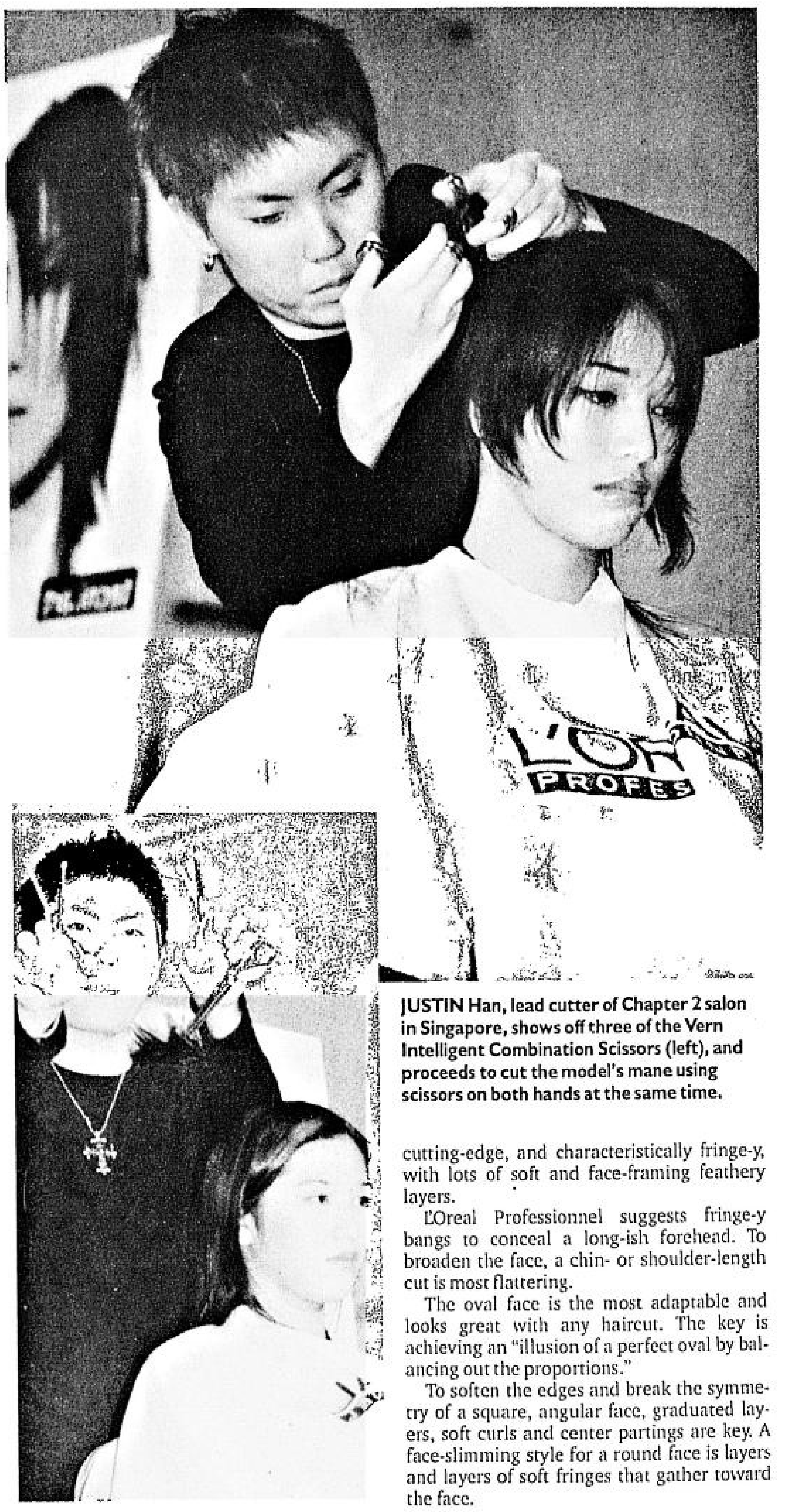
The Kimage team featured haircuts to flatter each of the four face shapes—round, square, long and oval. The styles were very cutting-edge, and characteristically fringe-y, with lots of soft and face-framing feathery layers.

L'Oreal Professionnel suggests fringe-y bangs to conceal a long-ish forehead. To broaden the face, a chin- or shoulder-length cut is most flattering.

The oval face is the most adaptable and looks great with any haircut. The key is achieving an "illusion of a perfect oval by balancing out the proportions."

To soften the edges and break the symmetry of a square, angular face, graduated layers, soft curls and center partings are key. A face-slimming style for a round face is layers and layers of soft fringes that gather toward the face.

VERON Ng, creative director of Kimage Salon, applies her technique to achieving a flattering hairstyle for a square-shaped face.



JUSTIN Han, lead cutter of Chapter 2 salon in Singapore, shows off three of the Vern Intelligent Combination Scissors (left), and proceeds to cut the model's mane using scissors on both hands at the same time.

Invasion of the anti-scents

From page E4

If there's an underground, alternative scene in perfumery, its denizens are Gendarme, Clean and Dior's Higher Energy

up and developed their own fragrance.

As Schroeder found his "home-made" perfume an "arresting fragrance," he christened it Gendarme (a French policeman). What was supposed to be for domestic consumption became public knowledge when he gave bottles of it to good friends and business associates as Christmas gifts.

As these metrosexuals started wearing Gendarme to their favorite men's stores, shop owners started noticing it. Smelling, er, sensing a hit product, they wanted to know where they could order it. After a Hollywood launch, Schroeder left his music biz to attend to his own fragrance company.

From a single scent, Gendarme now has a full line of fragrances. Initially gaining a cult following, it now counts fans such as Bill Clinton, Tom Cruise, Sharon Stone, Dustin Hoffman, Brooke Shields, Janet Jackson, Debra Messing, Dolly Parton, Rod Stewart, Shaquille O'Neal, Charles Barkley and George Bush.

Gendarme has found fans even among local celebrities. Singer Martin Nievera reportedly uses it, as well as former President Joseph Estrada.

Clean and simple

Canadian Randi Shinder's motivation was a bit different. But like Schroeder, the woman behind Clean was also looking for a different, more "simplistic" fragrance not usually offered in high-end department stores. She had to take matters into her own hands despite her limited knowledge in olfactory alchemy.

"She wanted a fresh-from-the-shower fragrance that she can smell not on herself, but on her man," says Cookie Manto, Clean's brand manager. "She came up with something mild that doesn't leave a smelly residue on the body."

Clean is an apt name, which, its creator says, doesn't promise its wearer a charmed life soon after spraying it on. Indeed, it was a pointed dig at mainstream fragrance ads that offer unrealistic promises through their glossy, stylized images.

"We're not here to promise that if you wear this fragrance your life is going to be beautiful and you're going to have a beautiful man and gorgeous children running around," says Shinder, who, like Schroeder was for Gendarme, is Clean's best walking advertisement. "But we can promise that you'll smell good."

A good number of people apparently believe her no-nonsense promise, as Clean, after coming out with a complete line of fragrances for him and her, is now poised to launch a full skincare line.

Clean also has its celebrity connections, as the company that produces it is owned by one of the lead stars of "The Sopranos." It gained prominence in the US last year when a bottle of Clean was part of the Grammy's loot bag. With such high-profile endorsers, who needs to advertise in the glossies?

Not to be outdone by the independents, Dior, a giant luxury brand, moved in the same direction by launching "Higher Energy," a younger version of hot Dior property "Fahrenheit." It's described as fresh, woody and spicy, and geared towards the younger "urban" man.

Actually, he need not be a city slicker. Filipinos, men and women, are hooked on scents like they're hooked on politics, basketball and show biz. While Japan is the biggest market in Asia for skincare and whitening products (figure that out), the Philippines beats them all when it comes to fragrances.

"Despite the hard times," says Tricia Bolido, Higher Energy's brand manager, "Filipinos continue to indulge in fragrances because it's part of who we are. For some reason, fragrances help lift our moods and boost our self-confidence."

Higher Energy is no different, as its fresh aspect is sure to leave a good impression. And compared to most mild fragrances, its users say it lasts longer, but, like Gendarme and Clean, not necessarily stronger to the point of repulsing other people, like how perfumes of yesteryears did.

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‘Perfumed’ divas

From page E1

woman’s curves. The amethyst bottle’s curved side is a perfect fit on your buttocks. Flipped over, it fits on the lower curve of your back. The perfume, a fruity floral, is surprisingly light for a sexy scent. It is a combination of chilled quince (similar to a pear), papaya blossoms, freesia and hinoki wood. You smell it when you are up close, and it does not assault your nose. You can wear the classy but sexy scent all day during the colder months and on evenings during the dry season.

Bodacious Beyonce is Tommy Hilfiger’s muse for his new fragrance, **True Star** (P3,700 for 100 ml and P2,650 for 50 ml). The smell is fresh and marine-sporty, in keeping with the Hilfiger tradition, and reflects the young, energetic aura of Beyonce herself. It’s for the sexy woman who is comfortable with herself. The scent can be worn all year round. The bottle is a tall, slender periwinkle blue sculpted glass, which resembles an award. It smells like the BCBG Metro and Loewe Aire but with a twist because it contains rice pudding, which makes you want to smell it again and again.

Jean Paul Gaultier’s **Fragile** comes in a body balm version, which leaves a shimmering gold glow on the skin. I include this in my diva article because the bottle has a figure in a long black bustier gown reminiscent of the ultimate diva, Maria Callas, the famous opera singer and feisty mistress of Greek magnate Aristotle Onassis.

The body balm is a solid perfume that lasts all day and comes in a velvety gothic pouch you can wear around your neck or your wrist. It is not a scent for everyone. JPG’s Fragile chooses the user, not the other way around, and it chose me. The scent is about attitude as well as body chemistry.

Thierry Mugler, on the other hand, refuses to use a muse for his new fragrance, his first unisex scent simply called **Mugler Cologne.** The citrus fragrance stays on the skin.

True to TM tradition, the cologne is inspired by Mugler’s childhood. While **Angel** reminded him of his grandma’s baked goodies, this scent brought to mind his mama scrubbing him clean before bed or after playing outside. The matching body lotion has a milky scent blended with citrus.

The new fragrance is more wearable than **Angel**, and I truly can’t imagine it smelling anything but good on anyone. In fact, during its introduction to the media, guests (men and women alike) constantly sniffed their wrists as they left—the smell is addictive.

The scent is available in splash or spray versions and the cylindrical lime green bottles are refillable. The huge 300-ml bottle costs P5,200; 125 ml, P3,400; and 75 ml, P2,500.

Bulgari’s **Omnia Crystalline** (40 ml, P3,450 and 65 ml, P4,398) smells nothing like its predecessor **Omnia**, which is very oriental. The new scent is citrus floral and more suited to our climate. It also has a prettier bottle of silver and white. It resembles a magical gadget from a fantasy movie like “Lord of the Rings” or “Harry Potter.” I imagine it on someone like Liv Tyler or Cate Blanchett.

Announcements

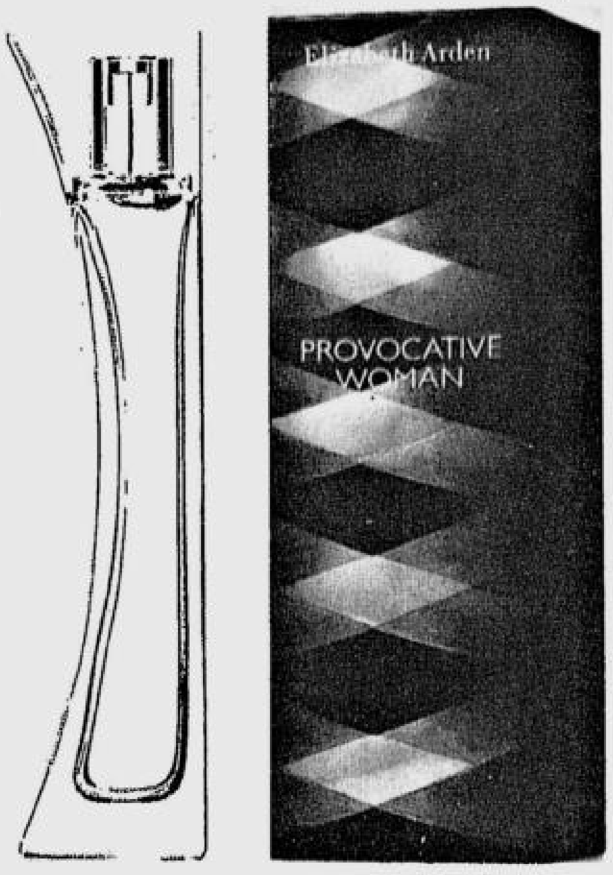
Aramis turns 40 this year, so check out their counters for specials. Your favorite limited-edition summer colognes such as Issey Miyake’s **L’eau Issey pour Homme** (P2,998); IM’s **L’eau d’Issey** (P3,298); Gaultier’s **Classique** (P3,298) and **Le Male** (P2,898) will only be on the counters until October, and then will be pulled out.

Elizabeth Arden, Thierry Mugler and Tommy Hilfiger are exclusively available at Rustan’s.

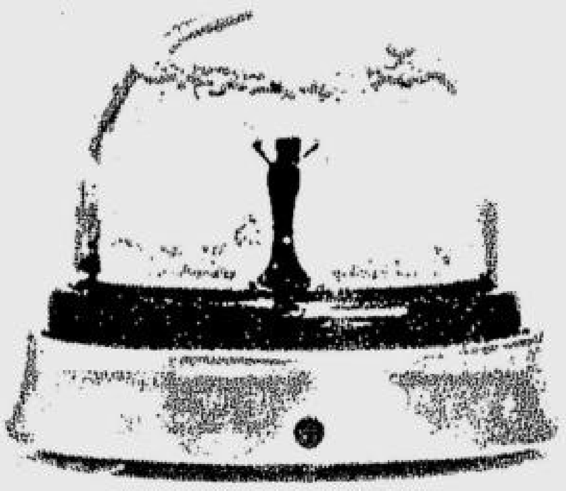
E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com.

true star
TOMMY HILFIGER

BEYONCE for True Star by Tommy Hilfiger



PROVOCATIVE Woman’s sleekly curvaceous packaging



FRAGILE by Jean Paul Gaultier is an *hommage* to Maria Callas.

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Invasion of the anti-scents

By Alex Y. Vergara

WHEN it comes to men's fragrances, Rustan's Essenses continues to relegate strong perfumes to the bottom shelf in favor of mild, refreshing scents that leave their wearers with a clean, energetic and "out-of-the-shower" feeling.

It seems that consumers—and their significant others—no longer go for "in-your-nose" fragrances that reek a mile away. They prefer subtle hints and fresh undertones embodied by three new perfumes: Gendarme, Clean and Dior's Higher Energy.

"A perfume is considered good if you hardly smell it on yourself, but others do," says Vanessa Ordinario, Gendarme's brand manager. "Gendarme is that subtle. Even I wear it myself and get complimented for it."

Outsiders who knew next to nothing about the fragrance market formulated the first two scents. As such, Gendarme and Clean were for a time the equivalent of indie films, with no major cosmetics companies backing them up.

Like many of us, American Topper Schroeder was just a simple consumer in search of cologne he wanted to wear with pride, one that would not irritate his skin or trigger asthma attacks. He and his partner eventually gave

INVASION/ E2

OUT OF THE SHOWER. Clean, Higher Energy and Gendarme

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